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On the cover: Illustration by United graphic designer Ziggy Pha





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Welcome aboard and thank you for choosing to fly United. We have an exciting update to your onboard experience that starts with this magazine in your hands. Next month, *Hemispheres* will transition to an entirely digital experience—bringing the travel stories you know and love right to your fingertips, no matter where you are in the world. Whether at home, work, or on the beach, our content can now be with you anytime, anywhere.

We're constantly looking at the ways we can best serve you with an easier, more inspiring travel experience. Moving *Hemispheres* to a new digital format is an extension of this goal, keeping the essence of the magazine and your favorite stories alive in a more accessible way that you can enjoy on and off the plane. *Hemispheres'* digital transformation also has the added benefit of being more sustainable, reducing the paper we print and our carbon emissions.

The *Hemispheres* website, which you can find at [united.com/hemispheres](http://united.com/hemispheres), is designed to be a resource for you. From guides curated for travel enthusiasts to a catalog of "Three Perfect Days," our detailed travel itineraries for destinations across the world, *Hemispheres* will now be your digital travel inspiration for all destinations we fly to.

And while this is the last printed issue of the magazine, I want to encourage you to look through this commemorative issue for a taste of what you'll continue to find online. And know that in the future, you'll be able to find *Hemispheres* on board in a new way: the screen at your seat. Your favorite stories from *Hemispheres* will be accessible through our inflight entertainment system in exciting new formats, alongside our food and beverage menus and other important information for your trip. In



# Inspiration in Hand, *Hemispheres* Goes Digital

A message from Richard Nunn



you might have already experienced some of these new enhancements, such as the capability to be moved automatically to your preferred seat and push notifications with the latest updates about your trip. Housed within our award-winning United app, these new features are designed to put the power in your hands to choose how you fly when you travel with United.

After 32 years of having *Hemispheres* on board, we are excited for what the future holds. At our core, we're committed

to connecting people and uniting the world. Our goal with the new *Hemispheres* platform is to cultivate an all-access digital experience that allows you to learn more about the places United can take you and create a travel experience that is truly unique to you.

Thank you again for choosing us as your carrier today—we are honored to fly you to your next adventure.

Richard Nunn  
Chief Executive Officer, MileagePlus®

the meantime, you'll be able to find our menu and inflight information card in the seatback pocket in front of you.

We know that everyone who boards our planes has their own goals, dreams, and motivations for their trip ahead. And much like we want you to feel empowered when you arrive at your destination, we also want you to be able to customize your journey on board. That's why we've introduced new and innovative ways to personalize your travel experience. If you've flown with us recently,

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# Flying Into the Future

The future of travel is here, and we're leading the way

By Andrew Morrell

In this final print issue of *Hemispheres* magazine, we're taking a moment to look back at our history, and also to look forward to new beginnings. When *Hemispheres* first appeared on United aircraft in 1992, so much of the travel experience was radically different: Flights were booked or changed over the phone or at the ticket counter, boarding passes were printed on paper, and inflight entertainment was often limited to the book you brought along. Over the last few years, though, we've been at the forefront of optimizing every step of your journey with innovative technology, while also building foundations for continued safe and sustainable flight for everyone. Here are a few examples of what we're doing to keep flying into the future.

**Keeping you connected with the United app:** There's a reason our app is one of the top travel apps in the

U.S. and a frequent award winner—we're always innovating to bring you new features that improve your travel experience from start to finish. Some of the latest improvements include real-time weather radar maps for flights, dynamic seat maps that let you swap seats in seconds, and automatic rebooking assistance when flights are delayed or canceled. That's in addition to the interactive terminal maps, inflight entertainment capabilities, and much more that are available within the app.

**Keeping you in the know:** While our app automatically gives travelers access to helpful info, it takes several teams working behind the scenes in real time to deliver it to you. One example is our "storytellers," who work in United network operations centers, monitoring thousands of flights every day and creating in-the-moment

messages for customers when things don't go as planned. Thanks to these teams and other United tech, we aim to keep you as up-to-date as possible on exactly what's causing a delay and what we're doing to resolve it. You'll see these messages on the Flight Status page in the app, as well as in operational emails and texts we send.

**Keeping travel accessible for everyone:** We're committed to making sure every traveler can fly with us safely and comfortably. Earlier this year, United launched a new digital tool on its app and united.com that makes it easier for customers who use wheelchairs to find flights that can best accommodate the specific dimensions of their personal mobility device. We also are proud to be a leader in accessible travel, with a range of features—from Braille placards onboard

to accessibility options in seatback screens and our app—designed to make it easy for everyone to fly.

**Keeping aviation sustainable for future generations:** As we fly into the future, we remain committed to protecting our planet for generations to come. That's why we've continued to be a global leader in efforts to reduce carbon emissions—not just from our own operations, but across the aviation industry. Through United Airlines Ventures, we've led a total of more than \$200 million in investments supporting sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) development, battery-powered aircraft, and more. With these investments, and with help from corporate partners and even fellow passengers through our Sustainable Flight Fund, we look forward to a world that remains safe and healthy for everyone well into the future.



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From left: United Vice President of State and Local Government Affairs Dan Lynch, Illinois Senator Laura Murphy, Senate President Don Harmon, State Representative Norma Hernandez, Governor J.B. Pritzker, State Speaker of the House Emanuel Welch, United President Brett Hart, and United Chief Sustainability Officer Lauren Riley celebrate United's introduction of sustainable aviation fuel for operations at Chicago O'Hare International Airport

At United, we've made a bold, industry-leading commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 without relying on voluntary carbon offsets. Last month, United crossed an exciting milestone on this path forward to flying more sustainably: becoming the first airline to purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for use at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

While O'Hare is United's hometown hub, it's the fifth airport where United has purchased SAF for operational use, among the most airport locations of any U.S. airline.

These purchases are a reflection of United's commitment to build a more sustainable future in the aviation industry. Recognizing that the industry relies on fossil fuels, United has focused its decarbonization efforts on the core of the business: jet fuel itself. That's where SAF comes in.

Made from feedstocks such as used cooking oil and

# Fueling Chicago

United brings sustainable aviation fuel to its hometown hub

By Isabelle Robles

agricultural waste, SAF is a lower-carbon alternative to normal jet fuel that can be used to fuel existing aircraft in combination with conventional jet fuel.

"The science is clear: SAF is the most promising tool to reduce our carbon footprint," says Lauren Riley, United's Chief Sustainability Officer. "As a company at the forefront of making aviation more sustainable, we want and need to spark change by bringing SAF into our airports. Purchasing SAF for O'Hare represents another step forward in our long-term goal."

While the use of SAF is the nearest-term solution

to decarbonizing the aviation industry, introducing SAF into operations is no small feat. The accomplishment was fueled thanks to collaboration with companies and governing bodies alike. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker championed the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Purchase Credit that led to the historic purchase.

"Since day one as governor, I've committed to making Illinois a national leader in sustainability and clean energy, which is why I was proud to support a nation-leading SAF tax credit last year," Pritzker says. "Illinois's position as a hub of innovation with some of the most connected

airports in the country perfectly aligns with the work of companies like United to build a more sustainable future for travel and reach our shared goal of zero emissions."

This step forward was years in the making, made possible by the support of the governor and the foundation United has built alongside other corporate partners. In 2021, United launched Eco-Skies Alliance, a first-of-its-kind program that brings companies with a shared vision of the future together to purchase SAF. In July, some of these companies joined United President Brett Hart and Governor Pritzker in an event celebrating the milestone.

"While the market for SAF is still in its infancy, there is a huge opportunity today for airlines and policymakers to work together to support its continued growth," says Hart, who was at the event. "This is what happens when innovation, leadership, and policy come together."

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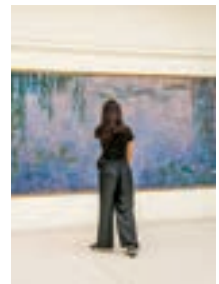


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# WHY WE TRAVEL

*Hemispheres* has traveled along with United's customers since 1992, offering 32 years' worth of fabulous vacation ideas, insider tips, and cultural happenings. While the publication may now be transitioning from its print past to its digital future, it's important to remember that many of the reasons we travel remain the same.

Which raises the question: Why are you on this plane today? Are you going to visit family? Are you off to impress a big client? Will you soon be eating your way across Tokyo, hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, or

marveling at the Sistine Chapel? And what about the person next to you?

In the following pages, we explore the myriad motivations for packing our bags: to challenge ourselves, to commune with nature, to make new friends, to fall in love, and so much more. Of course, no matter why we initially set out on a trip, we know that, by the end of it, we will have emerged somehow changed. We'll connect with a loved one (or a stranger), we'll learn something new, we'll grow, and—no matter what happens—we'll have a story to tell everyone back home.



Clockwise from top left: Jure Tufekcic/Unsplash, courtesy of Rachel Chang, Graeme Murray/ Tourism New Zealand, Bianka Kadlec/Alamy Stock Photo, Laura Hedden/Getty Images, courtesy of Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, Jenny Adams

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# Fall in Love

By Mrigaa Sethi



Above: museumgoers look at Claude Monet's *Nymphéas* at the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris

INFLUENCERS STRUCK THEIR poses before the art. Some pretended to look at the work, while others faced away. Regular museumgoers found their openings in the crowd and took quick snaps of a blurry blossom, a blue-green lily pad, a pink reflection. It was very unlikely they would revisit the photos at home.

Sitting on a bench in the middle of the gallery, Erin and I were having a very different experience. We were gazing misty-eyed at Claude Monet's panoramic *Nymphéas* cycle. The story goes that Monet spent a staggering three decades looking at and painting the pond of water lilies at his property in Giverny, France. Those combined

works now wrap around two elliptical galleries at the Musée de l'Orangerie, on the edge of the Jardin des Tuileries in Paris.

To passersby, we probably looked like a long-term couple, but Erin and I had only met once before, three months earlier, on a Tinder date in Bangkok that wasn't supposed to lead to anything more. Yet, somehow, each of us had flown from our respective corners of the globe—Buffalo, New York, for her, Singapore for me—to Paris for a weeklong second date with a near-stranger.

In the days prior, everyone we'd told about this trip had looked at it differently. Some of our friends had seen it as an expensive flight of fancy.

---

Others had worried we'd each end up ax-murdered by the other. A few had dared to imagine we'd fall in love and get married. But when Erin and I met again, steps from our Airbnb on the Rue des Montiboeufs, in the 20th arrondissement, I knew we'd just have to wait and see.

Sitting in the museum, I pulled out my phone, not to take a picture, but to look up that William Wordsworth poem about coming upon a field of daffodils. A different flower, but there's some affinity between the two works of art. I read the poem to Erin and was struck by these lines: "I gazed—and gazed—but little thought/What wealth the show to me had brought."

"I can't imagine what it must be like to just look at something for so long," I said.

Erin and I spent a lot of that week looking at each other: on the grimy Métro crisscrossing town, through curtains of *saucisson* at the Marché d'Aligre, over wine and pickled artichokes at Septime La Cave, on the steps of the Sacré-Coeur, at the Temple of Sybille in the Buttes-Chaumont Park, and holding hands beside the Seine. We tried to stay focused on what was in front of us, though it was hard not to rush ahead into what would happen next.

The future was impossible to ignore on the last day of our date. Rather than spend all day talking about what our week together meant, though, we took the short train ride from the Gare Saint-Lazare to Giverny—the village in Normandy where Monet lived and painted his water lilies. By coincidence, it was the first day that his property, now a museum, had been reopened to the public after a winter closure. We roamed the gardens, which were starting to green again but still weeks away from full bloom. We stood anxiously on the Japanese-inspired bridge that cuts over the pond. There were no lilies in the water yet. It was a sad and beautiful morning.

An older lesbian couple spotted us sitting on a bench with our arms around each other. "Can we take a picture for you?" one of them asked. As she took the photo, her partner looked over the camera and cooed knowingly. She saw what we couldn't see yet: that Erin and I would have many more transatlantic dates in the months ahead, to Singapore, Bangkok, Buffalo, and Delhi. That she would move to Singapore to be with me the following year. That we'd fly to Buffalo to get married on the front steps of City Hall, and four years later move to Brooklyn together to start a family. As I write this, I am nearly seven months pregnant with our first child.

I've traveled for many reasons in my life, but traveling for love has been the scariest—and the most rewarding.



---

**From top:** Monet's preserved house in Giverny; the Japanese bridge in the artist's garden



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- Kristina and Rick, IJL Couple



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4 MIN

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## Connect with Nature

By Celia Almeida



I WAS MORE than a thousand miles from home but looking at a familiar view: a grassy expanse in a bed of slowly flowing water. As a South Floridian, this landscape reminded me of countless wet hikes and bird walks I'd taken in Everglades National Park—only this time, I was gazing at the Platte River in Nebraska, about two and a half hours west of Omaha. Instead of the blistering heat and suffocating humidity of the Everglades, a blizzard raged. I watched the snow blow sideways from inside a heated wooden blind, a camouflaged shelter designed to hide me from the wildlife I was there to observe: sandhill cranes.

We have sandhill cranes back home, too, but they're residents who stay in Florida year-round. The birds that stood in front of me—some as tall as four feet—were stopping over on the long migration from their wintering grounds in Texas and Mexico to breeding areas in Canada and Alaska. During a roughly six-week period from early March to mid-April, more than a million sandhill cranes stop in the area to fill up on leftover corn kernels before continuing north. The phenomenon has existed

for millennia, but in recent years it has garnered interest outside the regional and birding spaces.

Although I was witnessing this spectacle for the first time, I was no stranger to migrating in search of nature's wonders. I began birding in 2018, initially in an effort to detach from a millennial slot-machine addiction to my phone. I thought learning about the species of birds around me might ground me in the present moment, and, as someone who copes with anxiety, that it might help me to slow down and meditate on my natural surroundings. Six years of experience (and a groundswell of recent mental health studies) have borne that out.

When you travel as a birder, you don't need to leave your hotel to see something new. I've watched great kiskadees perch on palm trees from a pool-side chaise longue in Mexico, listened to green parakeets squawk and flutter outside my window

Above: migrating sandhill cranes fly over Nebraska at sunset

---

**Below:** a bald eagle swoops past a flock of sandhill cranes stopped along the Platte River

in Costa Rica, and lost my ever-loving mind at the sight of a magpie in London. What started as passive observation has grown into the urge to follow migrating birds, like a hippie chasing the Grateful Dead's tour bus from city to city.

In Nebraska, I met up with Grand Island Tourism's executive director, Brad Mellema, who told me that every crane viewing is different. Some other nature experiences reveal their charms at first glance, but cranes are a slow burn. For him, the unpredictability is part of the appeal. "The Rocky Mountains are in-your-face loud—it's rock 'n' roll," Mellema said. "This is a symphony. It's loud, and it's quiet."

My second evening inside the Crane Trust's VIP heated blind proved his point. The nonprofit's range manager, Joshua Wiese, was supposed to give us a routine ride to the blind, but when I hopped in the shuttle, he and the other scientists were in a frenzy. There were whooping cranes in the area—an exceptional sight, as there are just 800 of them left in the world, with only about 600 living in the wild.

"I've never heard a whooping crane call before," Wiese told me, still in shock from having heard one on the ride over. I didn't know if my untrained ear would

be able to distinguish their call from the cacophony of thousands of squawking sandhill cranes.

I tried to keep my footsteps as quiet as possible as we entered the blind. We saw the whooping cranes—a couple and an unmated third wheel—through the plexiglass windows. Their white plumage popped amid a sea of dusty sandhill cranes. After a few minutes, the couple stood erect and projected a warning call in unison, as a bald eagle flew right over their heads. I turned to Wiese. He put his hand on his cheek, as if to stop himself from making a sound, and closed his eyes. He looked on the verge of tears. I felt a catch in my throat.

Over the next two hours, we saw a total of nine whooping cranes on the river—about 1 percent of the remaining global population. "Some people come here five or six times and never see that," Wiese told me.

In the distance, the setting sun spotlighted the silhouettes of sandhill cranes flying into the horizon.

They looked like waves of black confetti raining down after a concert. It wasn't rock 'n' roll, but I was starting to hear the music.



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## Get Lost in Strange Places

By Chris Wright

IT WAS ONLY a few euros, and I hated to strong-arm a nun, but it was the principle of the thing. “Hello?” Nothing. “Anyone there?” Nothing. “Can I get a receipt?” This was one stubborn nun, but she’d met her match in me, a compulsively frugal travel writer with an expense account to care for. Finally, the guy behind me gave me a nudge and tilted his head toward the door. I took the hint and left.

This odd scenario occurred in Madrid—more specifically, in the Monastery of Corpus Christi las Carboneras, which I’d stumbled upon while looking for the Plaza Mayor. From the exterior, there was nothing special about the place, but I went in anyway. In the back, I found a room with a tiny cubbyhole, and inside this a lazy Susan, operated by a hidden nun whose job it was to sell boxes of cookies. You put your money down, and the treats spun into view, along with your ... “Hello?”

On the same trip, I trudged around the neighborhood of Lavapiés in search of a restaurant that, I’d been told, served crocodile and zebra carpaccio. Mid-trudge, I popped into a sports bar for a restorative pint of Mahou and encountered absolute bedlam, as Real Madrid’s star player, Cristiano Ronaldo, had just been sent off for slapping an opponent. I got so wrapped up in the drama—the compound expletives, the collective thirst for revenge—that I completely forgot about my zoological-themed meal.

In my line of work, it’s important to maintain a definitive itinerary of Things to Do, along with a sense of how to find them. I also, however, enjoy leaving things to luck now and then: no GPS, no comparison websites, no social media lifestyle curators; just me, the great unknown, and a pair of sturdy shoes. For any young people reading this, take a breath and still that tremulous forefinger. Everything will be OK. Probably.

Often, these diversions will take me on an endless loop around some low-key residential area, ducking under a line of washing to find ... another line of washing. But that’s OK. Maybe I’ll see a pair of tasteless



curtains, or hear the gentle commotion of someone’s dinnertime, or smell a flowery window box. Palaces and cathedrals are great, but you can’t get to know a place until you get a sense of the people who live there.

If I’m lucky, I may find myself a lovely little church, a quirky shop, or—as happened to me in Porto—a fantastic view of the city. This is not the most efficient way of exploring a destination, of course, but the hit-and-miss element is the key to its appeal. As any gambler knows, there is no feeling better than the unexpected win.

The most vivid memory I have of a trip to the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca, for instance, is of sneaking through a half-open door in the town center. Down a flight of stairs, I entered a convolution of desolate catacombs, where I came across a heap of statues—relics of the country’s Communist past—which I gazed at until a security guard chucked me out.

It’s the thrill of discovery, the absence of preordained appreciation, that heightens such memories. Because here’s the thing about those tasteless curtains and discarded statues: They may not make the guidebooks, but they belong to you.

Above: clothes drying on a line in Porto

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# Realize Childhood Dreams

By Jim Shepard



Above: Bran Castle, thought to be the inspiration for Castle Dracula

EDWARD GOREY, THE wonderfully deadpan and macabre illustrator of cracked works for kids like *The Gashlycrumb Tinies* (“A is for Amy who fell down the stairs; B is for Basil assaulted by bears...”), when asked to explain how he ended up that way, theorized that maybe it was because the first two books he remembered reading were *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Dracula*. I know how he felt. My father was determined that I would be the first in my family to go to college, and his method of getting me there was to fill the house with nonfiction books, since, by his logic, that was how you learned things. This meant that my first collision with fiction was not until around my 10th birthday, when my aunt gave me a gift card from a store with no toy department.

Forced to choose between books and socks, I ended up with some paperbacks of *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*. While *Frankenstein’s* opening struck my 10-year-old ear as too formal, flowery, and philosophical, *Dracula* hit the ground running, with Jonathan Harker already on his way through the Carpathians toward Castle Dracula, while all those around him begged him in signs and gestures to turn back.

There’s a reason the book is still read everywhere 127 years after it was written. For me, it was a fever dream of the fascination and terror of the forbidden, filled with scenes that became imprinted on my psyche: Harker at his window in the castle, looking down at a mother wild with desperation and grief in the courtyard shouting

---

*“It was unearthly, and unnerving,  
and right there in front of me,  
right out of the book that had  
flattened me when I was 10.”*

“Monster, give me my child!” until Dracula, in a window high above them both, calls in his wolves as an answer. Harker seemingly paralyzed in the presence of three beautiful women who materialize out of the moonlight, on their knees bending over him, “simply gloating,” until Dracula comes to drive them away. Harker seeing the Count below him emerge from a window over the abyss to crawl down the wall *face down*, with his cloak spreading around him like great wings. And that was all within 10 pages.

Imagine my delight, some 40 years later, when Casey Affleck, who’d be starring in a film adaptation of one of my short stories, informed me that, though the story was set in Upstate New York, they’d be *filming* it in the Carpathians, for tax purposes—welcome to the film business—and that I should visit the set.

A free trip to the Carpathians! And was the location, by any chance, near the castle often identified as the historical model for Castle Dracula? It was.

Bran Castle, the only castle in Transylvania that fits the novel’s description of being “on the very edge of a terrible precipice ... where there is a chasm ... where the rivers wind in deep gorges through the forests,” was pictured in a 19th-century travel guide that Bram Stoker used as a reference, and it turned out to be only an hour from the shooting location.

The production company, always happy to get a screenwriter off the set, would provide a car to get me there. The whole winding drive, I thought: *Was I really going to see the castle I had so often imagined in my childhood? Were there any features that would match the pictures in my head?*

The deflating answer was no. The multilingual signs for those in line scolded visitors to “make the distinction between the historical reality of Bran and the character of the Count in Bram Stoker’s novel. Dracula exists in the imagination.” They needn’t have bothered: The one defining feature of the book’s castle had to be its wild isolation, and this real castle, like all castles, was intended as the fortress for a thriving community, and so was surrounded by a bustling town. It was also a nuthouse of a tourist trap that resembled a Six Flags amusement park more than a king vampire’s lonely, windswept aerie.

Back at the film set that evening, I took a walk. It was twilight, and as I headed up a ridgeline, I was stopped by one of the extras, still in his 19th-century costume. He was trying to warn me about something, and finally one of the

assistant directors hurried over and translated. The extra, a local farmer, was telling me that it wasn’t safe for me over that ridge, that I needed to turn back. The sun was now fully gone, and the light where we were, on the edge of the forest, had changed. I felt a chill, inside and out. Why wasn’t it safe? I asked. The assistant director translated: wild dogs.

Once they were sure I understood, they left me there, indicating with signs and gestures that I should stay where I was and not stray any farther into the woods. And it hit me that there was one part of my childhood dream that was right in front of me. The novel had described a particularly uncanny aspect of the Carpathian forests: the way the hillsides’ steepness, combined with the density of the fir stands, created an impenetrable darkness beneath the trees, even when it still seemed light out, as though stepping under those branches meant stepping into another world. It was unearthly, and unnerving, and right there in front of me, right out of the book that had flattened me

when I was 10. Bram Stoker had never been to the Carpathians, or seen that darkness, but had described it perfectly. Standing there on that hillside, I celebrated his achievement, flooded once again with that childhood chill I’d remembered, but never imagined I could recreate.



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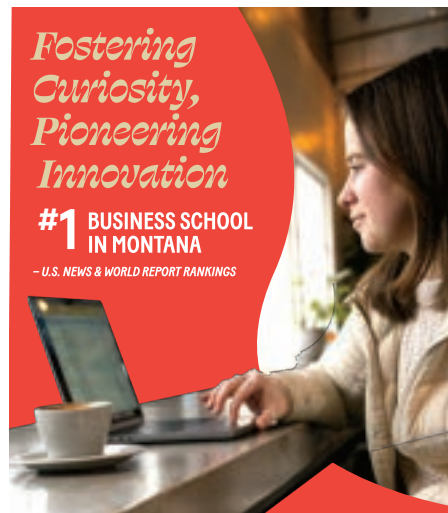
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# Share What I've Learned

By Justin Goldman



Above: the Seavey Vineyard property in Napa Valley

I'VE BEEN AN editor at *Hemispheres* for 11 years, and in that time I've been all around the world: I've swum in the Bora Bora Lagoon, stood at Ground Zero in Hiroshima, hand-fed wallabies in Australia, and felt the sands of Ipanema Beach between my toes. Yet perhaps the most meaningful trip I've taken in the last decade was to a place just an hour's drive from my parents' house.

This past March, my sister turned 40—nothing has made me feel quite so old as my little sister's 40th birthday—and we considered a variety of go-big celebration options. Then, my sister suffered a personal tragedy and decided she didn't want to embark on any major travels.

Hoping to be supportive, I planned to fly from New York City, where I live, to the San Francisco Bay Area, where my family resides. I asked my sister if she wanted to do anything special during my visit, and she requested a day in Napa Valley.

This was a wish I was qualified to grant, as I managed the monthly wine column in *Hemispheres* and have made numerous trips to Napa. I put together a list of options, and ultimately we

made appointments at two wineries. First, we'd go to Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, which is famed for making the cabernet sauvignon that beat the best reds from Bordeaux at the 1976 Judgment of Paris. Then, we'd go to Seavey Vineyard, a family-owned property that several of my sources—including Kelli A. White, the director of education at The Wine Center at Meadowood—cited as having one of the best tasting experiences in Wine Country.

Come the beginning of March, my girlfriend and I hopped a flight to San Francisco, and on the big morning we rendezvoused with my sister, her husband, and her high school best friend in the East Bay suburbs. An hour later, we were cruising along the Silverado Trail and turning into the parking lot of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. We were running late, on account of having to drop my 3-year-old niece off with the grandparents, and at first the staff seemed a bit rigid. (Wineries in Napa are busy, especially the famous, appointment-only ones.) Our server took a quick liking to our party, though, and he poured us a couple of extra tastes and let us stay past our allotted time. We

sipped those elegant cabs and looked out across the vineyards that produced them, toward the rock formation in the Vaca Mountains that gives the Stags Leap District its name. The vines were bare, and gray clouds glowered above the hills. The valley has a strange, stark beauty about it in winter, but as my sister posed for photos with that scenic backdrop, there was enough sunshine in her smile—an expression that had been rare of late—to make me think she might bring about the changing of the seasons.

We made a quick run into downtown St. Helena to have lunch—sandwiches at The Model Bakery, Oprah’s favorite for English muffins—and then it was on to our next appointment. Seavey is less than five miles from the valley floor, but, tucked up in the quiet hills near Lake Hennessey, it might as well be a world away. We drove a winding road up through gnarled oaks, the hillsides green from the winter rain, and soon we were pulling up to the stone building, once a dairy barn, that houses the winery. Director of hospitality Max Trego welcomed us with glasses of crisp chardonnay and led us on a brief tour.

As we looked out across the rolling, 200-acre estate, one of the winery’s owners, Will Seavey, walked up with an armload of weeds he had just finished clearing. We followed him over to a small corral and chatted with him while he fed the weeds to his goats. We petted his dog. It was all very down-home and pastoral and charming.

Afterward, we went back into the barn and took a table in a cozy tasting room. Trego had already poured flights for us, and we sipped the estate-grown, small-production wines—some of the most highly regarded ones in Napa Valley—and chatted with him and his wife, who sat at a desk in the corner, working on a computer. Between glasses, my sister played with a lazy cat that lounged on the chair against the wall behind her.

As a parting gift, Trego gave us a bottle of just-opened 2013 Caravina cabernet, which we took with us to dinner at The Charter Oak in downtown St. Helena. Located in a stately brick building and



run by Martina and Christopher Kostow (who earned three Michelin stars at The Restaurant at Meadowood), it’s my favorite place to eat in the valley. We sat beneath the high ceiling and enjoyed that bottle of Caravina, along with fresh vegetables grown on the restaurant’s farm, bread with house-cultured butter, and a big Mount Lassen trout roasted on the open-fire grill across the room. At the end of the meal, I could see on my sister’s face the satiated, slightly soporific smile that accompanies the end of most days in Wine Country.

We travel to open up our worlds, but something I’ve learned is that we also travel to *share* our worlds. On this day, I was able to share my love of wine and Wine Country with my sister. More importantly, I was able to share with her a bit of much-needed joy. This trip wasn’t anywhere near the longest one I’ve taken, but I would have gone to the ends of the earth for the result: my sister looking at a photo of our group outside Seavey’s stone winery and saying “best day ever.”

From top: the courtyard at The Charter Oak; a friendly feline in the Seavey Vineyard tasting room

Kelly Puleio (The Charter Oak); Ariel Goldman (cat)





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# Challenge Myself

By Susan B. Barnes

HUNDREDS OF FEET up in the air, teetering on one thin wire and holding onto another for dear life, I found myself thinking, *What am I doing here?* I was secured in a harness and knew I was safe—at least theoretically—but my knees still wobbled as I inched my way toward solid ground. Ascending to the top of Tweedsmuir Park Lodge's *via ferrata*, I gazed at the Great Bear Rainforest below and realized just how far I'd come, basking in a sense of pride and accomplishment. *I did it.*

As a woman of a certain age—I'm 53—I know that assumptions exist about what I'm capable of or willing to do. Rather than conform to those expectations, I enjoy finding new ways to challenge myself physically, mentally, and emotionally. The *via ferrata* climb in British Columbia definitely checked all of those boxes.

Little did I know it at the time, but my road to a lifetime of self-imposed challenges began when I was an Army brat living in Hawaii, where my dad taught me to snorkel, bodysurf, and boogie board on Pacific Ocean waves. Fast-forward a few decades, and I was heading off on white-water rafting trips down Tennessee's Ocoee River and

expeditions to swim alongside school bus-size (but docile) whale sharks off the coast of Mexico's Isla Mujeres.

Over the years, I've continually found ways to push myself in new directions, and I've come to realize that it's the adventures which take me completely out of my comfort zone that I cherish the most: traveling solo to the remote island of Fakarava in French Polynesia to scuba dive the Wall of Sharks; overcoming frigid temperatures to climb frozen waterfalls in Ouray, Colorado; and canyoneering in Utah's remote backcountry.

I find multiday adventures—spending a week bicycling through Spanish olive groves, hiking ancient Japanese pilgrimage routes—more challenging still. They push me not only physically, but mentally, and it's when I overcome the roadblocks that my mind sets forth that I reap the greatest sense of accomplishment.

My family often wonders where I get my sense of adventure and my insatiable desire to seek out these types of challenges. I don't have an answer for them—other than that I can't wait to see what's next.



Above: swimming with a whale shark off the coast of Mexico

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I TRAVEL TO ...

# Hit the Slopes

By Elaine Glusac

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Above: a skier carves her way downhill at Deer Valley Resort in Utah

ISN'T THIS BEAUTIFUL? Should I be terrified? And, where's the party?

These are the questions I ask myself every time I'm at the top of a ski run, before I dig my poles in to launch into the first turn. Like the tracks that braid the slopes after a new snow, three passions fuel my love of ski travel: nature, adventure, and camaraderie.

I grew up in the four-season state of Michigan, where I first fell in love with winter through that most democratic of pursuits—sledding. A plastic saucer or even a sheet of cardboard delivered the thrill of plunging downhill, amplified by a lack of control. Perhaps that was my inner skier emoting, but it would take years to find out. Although my parents both skied before having children, an early outing with three kids under the age of 6 resulted in a disastrous, domino-like pileup in a tow-rope line that deterred them from trying again.

As teens and young adults, my siblings and I independently found our way back to the slopes, and my sister even moved to Aspen to pursue that passion. I've watched her develop into a master of the mountains there, versed in every dip and bank in a way that itinerant me will never be.

Because I live in the flatlands of Chicago, where a highway overpass counts as a contour, I have to travel to ski—a demand I've embraced on trips to destinations ranging from New Zealand to Canada. I've floated airy dumps in frigid Alaska and braved white-outs in the treeless Andes. I'm a newbie wherever I go (except Aspen, where I try to keep up with my sister annually), and that's how I like it: learning to navigate the lifts, exploring unanticipated stashes, and testing my skills against the pitch of the earth. I like a fresh puzzle as much as I like fresh snow.

Traveling to ski, I revel in the variety of the terrain, but I also appreciate the culture of each destination. Laid-back Taos is not buzzy Vail is not posh Deer Valley, just as Japan is not Italy is not Chile. In each place, skiing offers a window into local life. Lift lines in the U.S., for the most part, remain orderly, guided by directional posts and ropes. In France, it's a scrum in which

we all knot together around the entrance and inch our way chairward, mostly cooperatively but occasionally aggressively. In Switzerland, I skied from town to town, transiting ski areas and the French border and finally appreciating Swiss fondue as an easy, caloric, and celebratory meal perfectly matched to the setting of a rustic chalet. In Japan, I fueled up on ramen and stopped to watch a technical skier practice for a judged competition by making smooth, symmetrical turns, leaving a perfect sine wave in his wake.

I might be from away, but skiing anywhere puts me among my people. Skiers are alone the way runners are alone: Your effort is solo, but doing it side by side with another magnifies mutual joy. There's instant camaraderie in a gondola full of excited skiers. We trade tips and favorite runs. Locals and repeaters chime in with recommendations for lunch and après-ski drinks.

No one needs to ski to après-ski—but we who do revel in accomplishment, exhilaration, and sometimes, in my case, relief. Otherwise, who would dare dance in boots worthy of Frankenstein? After I've completed that final run exhausted but upright, I don't even care who's watching.

From top: skiers on a slope above Lake Wānaka, on New Zealand's South Island; riding a chairlift at night





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# Make New Friends

By Rachel Chang

FOR NEARLY 10 hours, our van barreled down the single-lane highway from Fès toward the Sahara desert. Along the way, the road-trip games evolved from 20 questions to individually curated existential questions, and we took turns baring our souls to one another, as old friends do.

We weren't old friends, though. In fact, just three days before, I couldn't have picked any of my 11 travel companions—a mix of Brits, Canadians, Germans, and Americans—out of a crowd. Yet, somehow, we had fast-forwarded our bond from perfect strangers who just happened to sign up for G Adventures' Morocco Kasbahs & Desert trip to friends for life. At one point, while taking a pinpointed ribbing from the group, I keeled over in panged laughter, thinking, *How do these people understand me much more accurately than my friends back home?*

Maybe it was because we had started off on an equal footing—all first-timers in a foreign country,

absorbing it together as a unit. Regardless, nearly a decade later, the magic of that adventure endures in snow globe-like memories that we can shake up and relive whenever we find ourselves together again. Shortly after the trip, I met up with Wendy in Washington, D.C., and she brought me a bag of stems-on mandarin oranges like I had devoured on our trip. In 2022, Jonny drove nearly two hours to meet me when I was in Cambridge, England, and we chattered away over a tagine dinner. Earlier this year, after overnight nursing shifts, Pamela and Brandy played tour guides during my visit to Vancouver and Richmond, British Columbia. And, after Cindy and I discovered on that desert van trip that our parents were from the same small town outside Taipei, we met up in Asia last year.

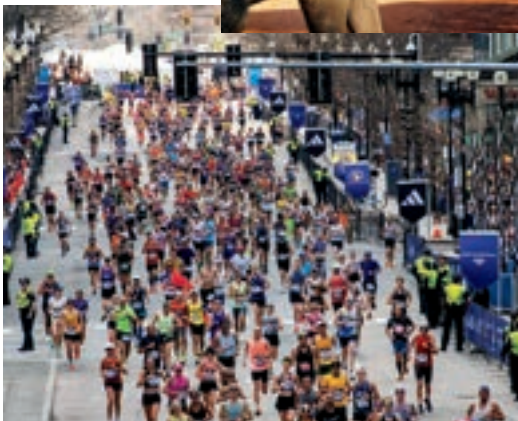
That Morocco trip was just the beginning. Before I knew it, I had amassed a palette of friends from around the

Below: the author (second from right) with new friends in Turkey





From top: the author (right) with Louisa Tatum in Cappadocia, Turkey; a pair of elephants get acquainted in South Africa; runners at the Boston Marathon



world, on trips to South Africa and Zimbabwe with G Adventures; to Cuba, the Galápagos, and the Pacific Northwest with Intrepid Travel; to the Italian Apennines with Exodus Travel; and to Finland with Flash Pack. Each time I boarded a flight solo to join one of these expeditions, it became clearer to me that I wasn't alone. I was becoming more and more a part of an intangible community of global travelers who were as curious and open about experiencing the world as I was.

Sometimes it's the tiniest slice of familiarity that sparks a friendship. For me and Louisa, who I met on an Intrepid Turkey trip, it was simultaneously pulling out antibacterial wipes in Istanbul. Synced in sanitation, we became a perfect match as roommates, chatting into the night about everything from running (I had done a couple of marathons by then, and she was setting out on her first) to our experiences as minorities living in the U.S. When we got home, I invited her out to New Jersey for her first race, the Running with the Balloons 5K in Readington. Months later, while I was volunteering at the TCS New York City Marathon, I put her first marathon medal around her neck. Five years after that, when Westin Hotels & Resorts offered me the chance to run the Boston Marathon, she guided me through nagging injuries and then traveled up to Beantown to cheer on my finish. I count her among my most cherished friends—and I never would have connected with her if I hadn't pulled out those wipes in Turkey.

The more I travel, the more geotags I collect on my Google Photos Map, but those digital trophies pale beside the indelible social moments: the pleas of new friends from a Slovenia day tour, begging me to stay for one more drink alongside the Ljubljanica River; or the howling laughter after a hiking trip in Ushuaia, Argentina, when a server asked our group how long we'd known each other, and we had to admit we'd just met.

A travel friendship, like any friendship, may last for a wrinkle in time or grow to span the years. The one thing that never fades, though, is the deeply etched foundation established by being together in a time and a place that only you share.

Courtesy of Rachel Chang (with Tatum); Joseph Prezioso/AP/F/Getty Images (marathon)

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# Go Fly-Fishing

By Darrell Hartman

TWO YEARS AGO, in southern Iceland, I went sightseeing in the kind of weather that makes you want to stay indoors. The wind slammed my car door shut; sheets of rain blew sideways. At a riverside overlook on the outskirts of Vatnajökull National Park, I walked up a trail for a better view of the blue icebergs and frolicking seals below. I could feel my wet feet chilling.

My frozen feet were hardly the most annoying consequence of the foul conditions. Far worse was the fact that the weather had forced me into the Plan B of sightseeing in the first place. Plan A, you see, had been to fish the spring run of Iceland's huge, sea-run brown trout. (Rain can be good for fishing, but not when it turns rivers into chocolate milk.) I knew that booking a trip to rural Iceland in early April would be risky—but it's the type of risk I'm happy to take for fishing.

I fly-fish a lot where I live, in the Catskills region of New York State, but it's not enough. "Destination fishing," as it's sometimes called, allows me to indulge my obsession year-round. The best seasons for trout in the Northern Hemisphere are late spring and early fall; in Patagonia and New Zealand, though, they're biting from December to March.

Like cathedrals in France and trains in Japan, sometimes fish in far-flung places are just more impressive. Iceland's sea-run browns are several pounds and inches larger, on average, than brown trout in the U.S. Many anglers consider tarpon, which swim in warmer waters, to be the ultimate game fish. I've hooked just one in my life, in the Florida Keys, and am still haunted by the memory of its silver body rocketing into the air. My guide, who got a good look at that leaping fish before it broke my fly off, estimated that it weighed 100 pounds.

The waters of the world hold different species, each of which demands its own tackle and tactics and offers its own reward. Stalking the white-sand flats in and around the Caribbean brings me an adrenaline rush that's different from the subtler sense of satisfaction I get from trout and salmon fishing: It's thrilling,



stressful, and highly addictive. Aside from Florida, I've also done it in Belize, and I've committed to going to the Bahamas with a fishing buddy later this year.

Will our group set time aside for colonial-era forts or a calypso show? That is a hard no. Like most anglers, we prefer our fishing trips to be laser-focused. That's not to say these expeditions are totally devoid of cultural exchange, though. In Argentina, riverbank lunches often include bottles of malbec. One charming thing about fishing in Scotland is seeing the signature streamside stone hut, known as a bothy. I often hire a guide when I'm fishing far from home, which means that I spend at least one full day with a local. It's a bad sign if we end up chatting a lot, though; it means we're not catching anything.

This is what really separates fishing trips from many other forms of travel: In a very basic way, they can be failures. There's plenty that I can do to increase my chances, but the fish still might not cooperate.

Imagine for a moment that a diehard foodie books a five-day trip to Rome. For some reason, no restaurant will serve her on the first day. (In angling, we call this a skunking.) The foodie tries again the next day and the next—and ends up not eating all week. Yet, she vows to revisit Rome next year to try again. Crazy, right? This is what fishing for Atlantic salmon has been like for me. My Rome is eastern Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula.

Trout, bless them, are more accommodating, and that stormy Iceland trip ended up being fine. I lost a day to weather, but when the rivers came down, I netted three fish larger than anything I've caught in the Catskills. And the sightseeing, too, was worth it.

Above: a fly-fisherman in the Florida Keys



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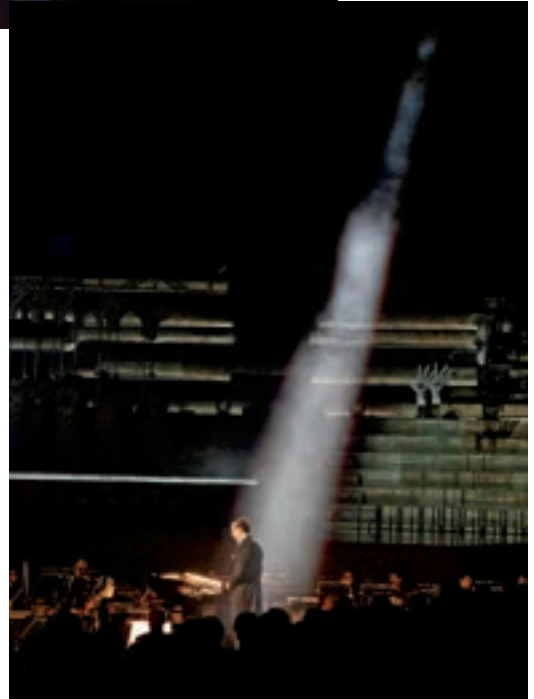
By Ellen Carpenter



THE VIOLINISTS BEGAN to bow once the sky was dark and filled with stars. Fifteen thousand of us sat, ready to be swept away by the music and emotion of *Aida* in the Arena di Verona, an amphitheater built in 30 CE, where Ancient Romans once watched gladiators battle to the death. On this night, people would die—but that fate would last only until curtain call.

I was raised to believe in the power of entertainment. My mom has always told my brother and me that she had kids so they could entertain her. My brother was the performer; I was the storyteller. She got what she wanted.

We traveled to be entertained—mostly to see theater, but also music and comedy. We went to the Stratford Festival in Canada to see *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Othello*. We told my grandparents we came to Niagara-on-the-Lake to visit them, but really we came for the Shaw Festival. At the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., we saw *Shear Madness* and then ate Ethiopian food (something I never would have encountered at home in Western Kentucky). Once I was old enough, we went to The Second City in Chicago, which, after obsessing over *Saturday Night Live* for years, felt like a pilgrimage. The first time I came to New York, we saw five Broadway shows



From top: the Arena di Verona; conductor Alvise Casellati leads the orchestra at a production of *Aida* in July

in six days, and I vowed to move to the city as soon as I could.

I've been a New Yorker for 22 years now, and, because of all the options available here, I haven't felt the same burning need to travel for entertainment as I did growing up. When I read about the Arena di Verona Opera Festival celebrating its 100th anniversary season last summer, though, it put a bee in my bonnet. I couldn't let go of the idea of being entertained in a space with so much history. So, a few months ago, I did what I tell people not to do, and booked a trip to Italy in the summer. My son, Calder, and I would see *Aida*, explore the city that inspired Shakespeare, and stay at the Due Torri Hotel, a 14th-century palazzo that has hosted everyone from Mozart to Maria Callas.

Calder was weaned on musical theater, but opera was new to him. Before our trip, we listened to Verdi's masterpiece—which was performed at the festival's inaugural season—and I broke down the plot, hoping the war setting would appeal to Calder's 11-year-old, video game-obsessed sensibility. Mostly he wanted to know more about being buried alive.

Once he was there, though, it clicked. I watched him watching, rapt, as Radamès pined for the enslaved princess Aida, his one true love. "You know he's not mic'ed, right?" I whispered. Calder's jaw dropped open. "No way!"

Before the show, we'd been lucky enough to go on a backstage tour, so when certain costumes or setpieces emerged, Calder nudged me in recognition. On our tour we bumped into the director, Stefano Poda, who welcomed us warmly. "This is the magic of the music and the magic of this place," he told us. "The secret is the energy of everyone all together."

The magic stayed with us after the opera, as we wove our way through the narrow streets of Verona back to our hotel. Despite the late hour, Piazza delle Erbe was filled with people enjoying a perfect summer evening. I hummed "O Patria Mia," and Calder let me hold his hand, something he hadn't done since elementary school.

I felt, I'm sure, the same way my mom must have when I was a kid—heart abuzz with joy and gratitude for the performance, yes, but more so for getting to share it with my son. I wasn't surprised when my eyes filled with tears.



**Above:** scenes from Stefano Poda's production of *Aida* at the Arena di Verona



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## Make Music

By J.R. Patterson

MUSIC CAN BE a refuge, but in Marrakesh, it comes in many forms. Already at dawn, I could hear the snake charmers in the Jemaa el-Fna square. At that early hour, the thick, rising heat begins, carrying the sound across the skyline of flat roofs and minarets—a cacophony of frantic drums and whining horns with all the subtlety of a Scottish pipe band falling down a flight of stairs. But the music and the snakes are a gimmick. The fat cobras lying coiled on the pavement are quickly covered with baskets when one shows no interest in joining the teasing or posing for a photograph.

Morocco sometimes felt the way the French painter and writer Eugène Fromentin had depicted it a century and a half before: men in djellabas milling around stone gates ornamented like fossilized shells, the market stalls of the casbah just beyond. Against the dun-colored walls and the dust, the souk is like an artist's palette daubed with color: mountains of dried fruits and nuts, tables heaped with silver bangles, bags of sandalwood bark, mounds of spices, apothecary jars of herbs, orange and yellow leather pouches hanging in layers like the scales of a dragon. It is impressive, but a closer look reveals a repetitive surrealism: The stores are identical, repeating themselves ad infinitum like recycled cartoon backgrounds. To enter the bazaar is to enter a music hall of competing ballads, each vendor chanting you into their *herboristerie*, their performance sung to your sympathy but aimed at your wallet. Five hundred feet into the bazaar, I knew the salesmen's songs by heart, could tell cumin from coriander at 20 paces, and had drunk more menthol-tinged mint tea than a recovering addict.

Seeking reprieve from the haranguing calls for money and attention, I ducked into a music store near the Secret Garden. I was the only patron, and the vendor sat quietly as I perused the *nai* flutes, *mizwid* pipes, and ouds. There was no expectation I'd purchase an Arabic violin or a five-string banjo; these items were for locals, not visitors.

I struck up a conversation with the vendor, Mohammed. We discussed various regional genres: the desert blues of Ali Farka Touré, the flamenco of Andalusia. I mentioned my own music background—years of

playing the violin, piano, and other instruments. Mohammed then spent a few hours showing me tricks on the lute-like *sintir*; by the time we were done, I had I wrecked my fingers on its three strings. When I left, rejuvenated, my new friend told me to return to Jemaa el-Fna after dark.

Music offers so much of what we seek in travel: It's communal and provides a view into the unique tastes of the people we meet. Perhaps best of all, because it transcends language, it gives somewhere for the traveler to be themselves.

The overlap between music and travel has always been natural for me. During an extended stay in Australia, I filled a chair in the Darwin Symphony Orchestra. Motorcycling across South America, I kept a charango strapped to my gear to provide solace through lonely nights on the altiplano. I've toured the bars of Nova Scotia as part of an acoustic duo, and I've played blues music in Kazakhstan to honor *konakkade*, the tradition that allows hosts to request a song from their guests. Wherever I go, I pack sheet music so that, should I find a piano, I'll have the opportunity to practice Beethoven sonatas. Now here, in Marrakesh, my visit was saved once again by music.

That night, when I arrived at the square, cats' eyes reflected the light of lanterns. The snake charmers were gone, replaced by clusters of musicians. I met Mohammed, and he drew me into a circle of his friends. It was *dakka marrakchia*, he said, music of the desert, of the Berber. There were tambourines, and metal castanets called *qarkabeb*, and drums. One man had a banjo plugged into a cheap amplifier and was thumping a distorted, hacksawed drone. Someone handed me a drum. We were brothers in music, Mohammed said. Brothers in arms, I said, and he asked me if I knew that song, the Dire Straits one. I did, but started tapping out the melody to "Water of Love" instead. The others joined in, adding their drums and metallic clanks, making the song something new, something different, something ours. The banjo man plucked a raw note, beginning a melody-less call-and-response. Mohammed leaned over to translate:

*Life is going  
I don't have anything  
Just my music  
But that is enough.*

Right: Marrakesh's Jemaa el-Fna marketplace at night



# Teach My Kids to Protect Our Oceans

By Terry Ward



AS PARENTS, ONE of the hang-in-there refrains we hear most often—especially when the kids are young, and usually from other parents who have entered a less taxing phase—is that the days are long, but the years are short. It’s something I think about through both the impasses and the high times—of which there are many, many more. The sentiment echoes in my head every time I plan travels with my 6-year-old girl and 7-year-old boy, and even when I’m taking a trip on my own, when I relish the peace and quiet but also miss hearing them call out, “Mommy!”

I’ve been traveling the world since I was in my early 20s, and diving has always been my biggest passion. As I approach the mid-century mark, I’ve become more keenly aware of how the places I’ve returned to are changing under the dual crush of over-tourism and a warming planet. I’ve seen patches of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef burdened by coral bleaching, while other sections nearby ripple with color and life. The ocean is never filtered, after all. Now that my kids are old enough to breathe through a snorkel and peer confidently through a mask underwater, this is where I take them to show them—and remind myself—all that is at stake.

During a recent visit to The Tides Inn in Virginia’s underrated Northern Neck region—where the Rappahannock River meets the Chesapeake Bay, and where my parents live—we toured the property with the resort’s ecologist, Will Smiley.

He showed us how an intensive shoreline restoration project is helping bring back a keystone species, eastern oysters. The people in this place were focused squarely on preserving their very small piece of the planet, and Smiley helped me hone the concept of stewardship I’ve been trying to drive home to my kids, by showing rather than telling.

From Bluffton, South Carolina, the kids and I departed for a boat tour to Georgia’s Shark Tooth Island with Outside Palmetto Bluff. Before we got down to sifting sand for fossilized treasures, Captain Boo Harrell, who grew up alongside the marshy May River, pointed out a few wood storks, a species that has returned to the area. We watched the wading birds stalk through the spartina, appreciating that their presence was a sign of fewer pesticides in the environment.

Even mass tourism can bring transformative moments when you pause to welcome in the world. On a recent cruise we took, during a port of call at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in the Bahamas, I watched the kids peer through their masks in awe at the sight of their first Caribbean reef squid. “Mommy, it’s like a magic carpet!” shrieked my daughter through the tube, refusing to pull her head from the ocean’s embrace.

I know from a lifetime of loving the ocean that these are the most meaningful moments—ones you could never experience from the shore.

Above: Jet Skis zip across Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in the Bahamas



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# See How Much I've Grown

By Joshua David Stein



Above: Il Giardino di Josh, at Villa La Pietra in Florence

IN AUGUST 2021, cooped up in Brooklyn, hot, restless, the city still in pandemic mode, I received an email from a man named Nicholas Dakin-Elliot. Now, that was a name I thought I'd never see again. "Ciao Josh," he began. "I hope you don't mind me writing, but students, staff, and visitors at Villa La Pietra keep asking me, 'What happened to Josh?'"

Twenty years earlier, I had met Nick at Villa La Pietra, a Renaissance estate owned by New York University in the hills of Florence. As a college sophomore, I had fled heartbreak in New York to study abroad. Nick, a tall, skinny Englishman, was the head gardener at Villa La Pietra. He had been looking after the property's 37 acres of ornate gardens for years, as they went through various stages of disrepair and restoration. He was a gentle man who spoke quietly, with the rolling vowels of a Yorkshire accent, and was perpetually trailed by his dog, Flash, a sagacious silver greyhound.

I had been warned before I left for Italy that it was possible to study abroad in Florence and never

once set foot upon the city's cobblestoned streets, exchange a word with a Florentine, or utter a lick of Italian. Even at the tender age of 19, I knew it would be foolish to waste this opportunity. So I chose an apartment in the Oltrarno, on the far side of the city, began dancing with a local dance company, tried (unsuccessfully) to date Italian women, and volunteered with Nick's gardening crew, a ragtag bunch of locals that included Lorenzo, the big Lorenzo; Lorenzino, the small Lorenzo; and the brothers Morgenni, Gino and Dino. Together we cut through brambles, hauled soil, collected stinging nettles for the kitchen, scythed grass, and pruned the boxwood hedges.

At the time I was there, the gardens were under restoration and were closed to the public and students alike. Working with the gardening crew was not only a way to gain entry into some facet of Italian culture, but also my only chance to see the tiered beds, the geometric hedges, and the statues, gathering moss on their pedestals, that

had been collected by the villa's previous owner, Sir Harold Acton. I'm from the suburbs of Philadelphia. I had never encountered anything like this. I was, as so often happens in gardens, enchanted.

During my second semester, I talked Nick into letting me undertake an independent study project on garden design. (I went to the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, a school within NYU for weirdos who want to design their own major.) We decided I would redesign a small garden area on the southside of Villa Ulivi, one of the five villas that make up NYU's property. As summer turned to autumn, Nick and I worked together to create a garden where students and faculty could gather. I proposed we carve a sort of running, landscaped bench at the berm. Sheltered by the villa on one side, a garden wall on another, and trees on a third, the garden was a perfect sanctuary—more welcoming, perhaps, than the formal gardens elsewhere. I used my rudimentary Microsoft Paint skills to sketch a plan.

That fall, I submitted a final report, obviously none of which was put into practice, and then I left Florence, never to return.

Italy, however, had cast a spell on me, and that time in Florence proved to be a gateway into the world of food and wine—a world from which, as a cookbook author and restaurant critic, I now make my living. Even more important were the lessons I learned as part of Nick's crew: that there's no better way (no *other* way, really) to experience a culture than getting down in the dirt and working. I've applied this reasoning to pretty much everything in my life: travel, friendships, love, spirituality. No mud, no lotus.

Over the years, my memories of the garden grew faint. I got married. I had kids. I got divorced. The bloom of my youth faded into a sort of hazy, beer-light glow of middle age. In short, life happened. Which brings me to Nick's email.

"That area at the side of Villa Ulivi that formed the base of your Independent Study with me has now long carried your name: 'Josh's Garden,'" Nick wrote. "It appears on all the maps, and though its current form has strayed from your final design, it has become a popular area of quiet relaxation for the NYU Florence Community. In style, it's

a bit different from the rest of the estate, but it stands out as something special ... a bit like my memory of you."

I have not yet won the lottery or a Pulitzer, but I imagine the accompanying joy would be similar to what I felt in my bedroom that night, as I read Nick's words. *There's a garden. In Florence. Named after me? What?* I couldn't stop giggling. I still can't. It's so clearly the coolest thing about me—so cool it feels like it happened to someone else. I had to get there.

It took three years, but I finally did.

Villa La Pietra was much as I remembered it. Snippets from the past played up like bits of long-forgotten songs: the smell of Vespa exhaust as I walked up Via Bolognese, the crunch of gravel underfoot, the magical feeling as the gate creaked open. So too came back a raft of other memories. I am not proud of who I was at the time, an outrageous, attention-seeking rebel, climbing the castle walls (I have photographic proof) and roughhousing on manicured greens. I wished to distance myself from that young man so much that in the intervening years I forsook "Josh," religiously correcting anyone who dared call me by my deadname with a curt, "It's Joshua."

"*Salve!*" I turned around to see Nick, wearing a long-sleeved shirt, pants, and a wide-brimmed hat. It was 99 degrees. Flash had died 10 years ago and

From left: *Lantana camara* flowers in the garden; the author at Villa La Pietra in 2024



Courtesy of Joshua David Stein



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From left: oranges in the garden; Nicholas Dakin-Elliott with Bob the Italian greyhound in 2024

been replaced by Bob, a smaller, jet-black Italian greyhound. Nick's hair had, inversely, gone from black to silvery. But the rest remained unchanged. How wonderful it was to see him; how grounding it felt, strangely, and how meaningful, to reconnect with him, with this place.

Nick and I walked along the high path lined by Italian cypress trees, down a few stairs, and through an arbor of flowering violet to my namesake garden. He explained that, soon after I left, people colloquially began calling it *Il Giardino di Josh*, or Josh's Garden. In 2016, when NYU undertook a re-survey of the estate and filed plans with the city, what was informal became enshrined, forever, officially, as *Il Giardino di Josh*.

As far as gardens go, mine is small. At the center is a small fountain, with four beds geometrically arranged around it. A walking path lines the outer perimeter, with intersecting paths leading to the fountain. Stone benches—originally sections of the balustrades surrounding the Isolotto in the legendary Boboli Gardens that were bought by the Acton family in the early 20th century and installed by NYU in the 21st—are nestled into flower-laden oleander bushes.

The plantings themselves are exuberant and overflowing. Nick described them as “romantic.” Loosely symmetrical, two diagonal beds are centered on a pair of tall, burgundy-leaved summer chocolate mimosa trees (*Albizia julibrissin*). From

the opposing pair of quadrants rise a pair of lush avocado trees (a symptom of climate change, as normally Florence is too cold for them). Around these pinnacle plants, at lower elevations, bloom the bright blue flowers of the blue leadwood (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*), with its distinct diamond-shaped leaves; a profusion of lavender from the Canary Islands; salvias from Mexico; and small constellations of bright red and orange West Indian lantana (*Lantana camara*). *Ligularia dentata*, or leopard plants, spring from the ground in little flowering towers. I can't quite remember what my final design had been for the garden, but surely it hadn't been this beautiful. What right did I have to even call it my own?

It turned out that question was moot, as it was Nick who had dubbed it such. “What came from your project was the idea that this was different from everything else that is on the property, and that that was possible because this garden here at Villa Ulivi is the only bit that's not listed,” he told me, as we sat gazing out at the valley before us. “So we're not under any obligation to keep everything as it always was. And we've made use of that.”

Even more than the deep sense of flattery—I'd say it's humbling to have a garden in Florence named after you, but it's really the opposite of humbling—I was struck by the idea that when I was young I might have been, or offered, something special. Maybe Josh hadn't been so terrible. Maybe he had been special, and maybe that specialness had survived through the humbling and buffeting winds of aging. Yes, there's a blessing in realizing you're not the main character in life (that comes with age), but when you get to be in your 40s, moments like these are much-needed buttresses, like a Hot Wheels recharge or a booster shot.

The next morning, I crossed the valley early to sit in the garden before the brutal Florentine heat descended. The sound of cicadas kept time as the sunlight slanted upon the lavender. The garden is not as I left it; nor am I who I was when I left it. Nick's words resonated: “We're not under any obligation to keep everything as it always was.” Twenty-five years, more than half my lifetime, had passed since I first stepped into the garden. Neither of us were the same. We had grown.



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**FANUC**

## Try on Different Lives

By Ann Shields



WHEN I WAS in my early 20s, I moved to New York City and drank every drop of the Kool-Aid. The city was everything I wanted—noisy, sentimental, bossy, skeptical, tender—and, many years later, it remains so. I hope to always live here. But that doesn't mean I don't love to imagine what my life would be like if I lived in every single place I visit.

I do this in all sorts of places, not just the glamorous destinations I frequent as a travel writer. A trip to see suburban relatives or a dinner invitation to Astoria, Queens, or Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, is enough to launch a vision of an alternate reality. It begins when I start to pay attention to the locals to discern what, if anything, makes them different from the people where I live. Seeing the inevitable similarities makes me think, *What if I lived here? Would it change me?*

Before COVID, during a long, slow drive north from San Francisco on the Pacific Coast Highway, I mentally auditioned for life in every tiny town my husband and I passed through. *That woman at the general store in Elk, what does she do for work? Was she raised here, or is she a transplant? Does she live in one of the weather-beaten houses on the highway, the ones with flowers tangled along the fence line? Is that her truck out front? Would I need a truck if I lived here? Possibly, right? I'd probably need one to transport my in-demand pottery or bespoke sauerkraut or the beauty products I make with foraged kelp.*

Ah, I had a good (pretend) life there in Elk.

At times, I've given the fantasy an extended opportunity to flourish. In my mid-20s, I was sent to work in London for three weeks. I stayed with a friend of a friend in Kennington and worked in Camden Town. I was auditioning for the

part of the work-weary office girl, pushing onto the crowded Tube each morning. (Thanks to my Doc Martens and a plasticky tartan crossbody book bag, I had a jump on the masquerade.) I labored to prefer tea over coffee and cultivated a taste for scones.

After work one evening, I went to a jazz show, because I'd overheard some interesting-looking people talking about it at the curry shop near my office. I was indifferent to jazz at the time, but sitting on a bleacher in a converted train shed, surrounded by die-hard fans, I tried on something new: how it would feel to care about jazz. To my surprise, pretending worked; by listening more carefully and positively, I started to get it a little, to understand where the melody went when the improvisation kicked in. Riding the Tube back to Kennington afterward, I felt a little giddy, like something had opened up inside my brain.

This, I think, is the point of pretending: the opening up, trying new things. You don't simply escape the drudgery of your daily life; you escape a more limited definition of yourself. A 2010 study in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* concluded that exposure to foreign cultures "(a) facilitates idea flexibility (e.g., the ability to solve problems in multiple ways), (b) increases awareness of underlying connections and associations, and (c) helps overcome functional fixedness." Because pretending is a creative act, and traveling enhances creativity, doesn't every trip become part of an expanding circular journey, one full of real experiences that trigger less-real flights of fancy? Do you love to travel because you are creative? Or are you more creative because you travel?

If you're looking for reasons to travel to a new destination, overcoming "functional fixedness" and getting better at creative problem-solving feel like strong ones. And—dare I say it?—achieving an epiphany doesn't require traveling to an exotic locale.

Maybe even just New Jersey. Imagine who you could be in New Jersey.

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## Celebrate Life

By Jenny Adams



"I'M GOING IN," my mother called, lifting a skinny leg and throwing it over the fence post.

"You can't be serious! It says 'no trespassing,'" I hissed, fumbling to lock the car and keep up. For a woman recently in remission, she moved remarkably fast.

My mother's cancer diagnosis hit all those shrieking, god-awful high notes no one wants to hear: Aggressive. Rare. In her throat. Her response was both expected (torrents of fear and sadness) and strangely humorous. Parking restrictions and stop signs became silly things for less-sick people. Doctors advised vitamins, but she chose cheeseburgers. Countless bottles of Whole Foods green juice went down the kitchen sink.

I know there is something magical in Hope, because the doctors told us as much. They said Hope is essential to wellness, so we kept her dreams of a trip to the Isle of Mull in Scotland at the forefront of our conversations as she battled through chemo and radiation.

Hope turned to reality, and we found ourselves in Scotland—her in remission, me joining in a trespassing violation.

We marched up a gravel path. Thick trees parted, and we stood in the gardens of Torosay Castle, a gentle rain descending from the September sky. Stone statues lined an electric-green hedgerow; Google informed us they were imported from Padua, Italy. We ignored the drizzle and wandered, mesmerized, through formal terraces teeming with lilac hydrangeas, spotted foxgloves, and fat, pink roses, all backdropped by a brooding stone castle. My mother is quite the gardener—her bloom-filled yard back in Alabama is frequently featured in magazines, even trespassed upon by the curious. Being here felt only fair.

We left Torosay without incident and spent the next hour driving the single-track stretch of Mull's A849. At Loch Scridain, I pulled off to take a photo of two grounded, decaying fishing boats, their hulls a motley, gorgeous ruin of blistered wood and peeling paint. I stood beside my mother in silence as we marveled at the clouds above them, perfectly reflected in the silent water.

A road trip seems such a simple thing, until you can't do it. Until life is suddenly defined by test results and fear, orange prescription bottles and gross green juice. Many aren't as lucky as we were. For many, that hard-fought Hope is dashed.

As I stood and looked at the loch, I felt the immensity of gratitude push out my rib cage and threaten my eyes with tears. I took a deep breath of air scented like fine whiskey, all wet moss, dank earth, and salt.

We drove on, discussing everything and nothing; reveling in those good-road-trip conversations, veering from Elvis to Robert Frost, high school hijinks to Christmas mornings. Then, my mother screamed, "*Stop the car!*"

My stomach dropped. I slammed on the brakes. *She's going to be sick. She's not OK. We are in the middle of nowhere.* She tore out of the car, moving again with shocking speed on her bird-like legs.

Then, I saw it.

"Mom! Be careful!" I yelled, inwardly wincing. Cancer turns you into such a hover parent. I shut my mouth, but I couldn't stop the smile from breaking across my face. My mother marched right up to the Highland cow that was standing in the road and stuck her hand out. The enormous, shaggy Muppet lowered its fuzzy face and sniffed her open palm. She gave him a pat on the head. "He likes me," she called out, delighted. Then, she was jumping a second fence of the day,

off to meet more cows.

Here's what travel has taught me: Hope is a drug. Gratitude is a blessing. And trespassing is only a crime if you get caught.



This page, clockwise from left: a Highlands landscape; decaying fishing boats at Loch Scridain; the author's mother greets Highland cows on the road; previous page: a dahlia at Torosay Castle





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An aerial photograph of the Chicago River in downtown Chicago. The river is a vibrant greenish-blue, winding through the city. Several bridges cross the river, with cars and pedestrians visible on them. In the foreground, a large bridge with stone towers is prominent. The background is filled with tall skyscrapers, including the Willis Tower (now 111 Wacker Drive) on the right. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text 'THREE PERFECT DAYS' is overlaid in red, and 'Chicago' is overlaid in white.

**THREE  
PERFECT  
DAYS**

# Chicago

There's something about Chicago, the main hub and corporate headquarters of United Airlines, that makes it feel emblematic of the United States as a whole. Maybe it's because the city's 19th-century rise was defined by its prominence in building the nation's railroads, packing its meat, and making its steel. Or maybe it's because steady waves of immigrants have been shaping the area ever since a Haitian trapper established a trading post on the Chicago River in 1779. These days, this lakefront metropolis of 2.6 million has spread across 100 neighborhoods that are as distinct from one another as they are united by an ever-present drive to create. The type of production has changed through the years, but Chicago remains a city of makers, a hub of culinary and comedic talent constantly finding new ways to honor and interrogate its past.

By Lauren Vespoli • Photography by Tanveer Badal



Pouring a cocktail at After; previous page: the redirected Chicago River flows away from Lake Michigan and through the city

DAY

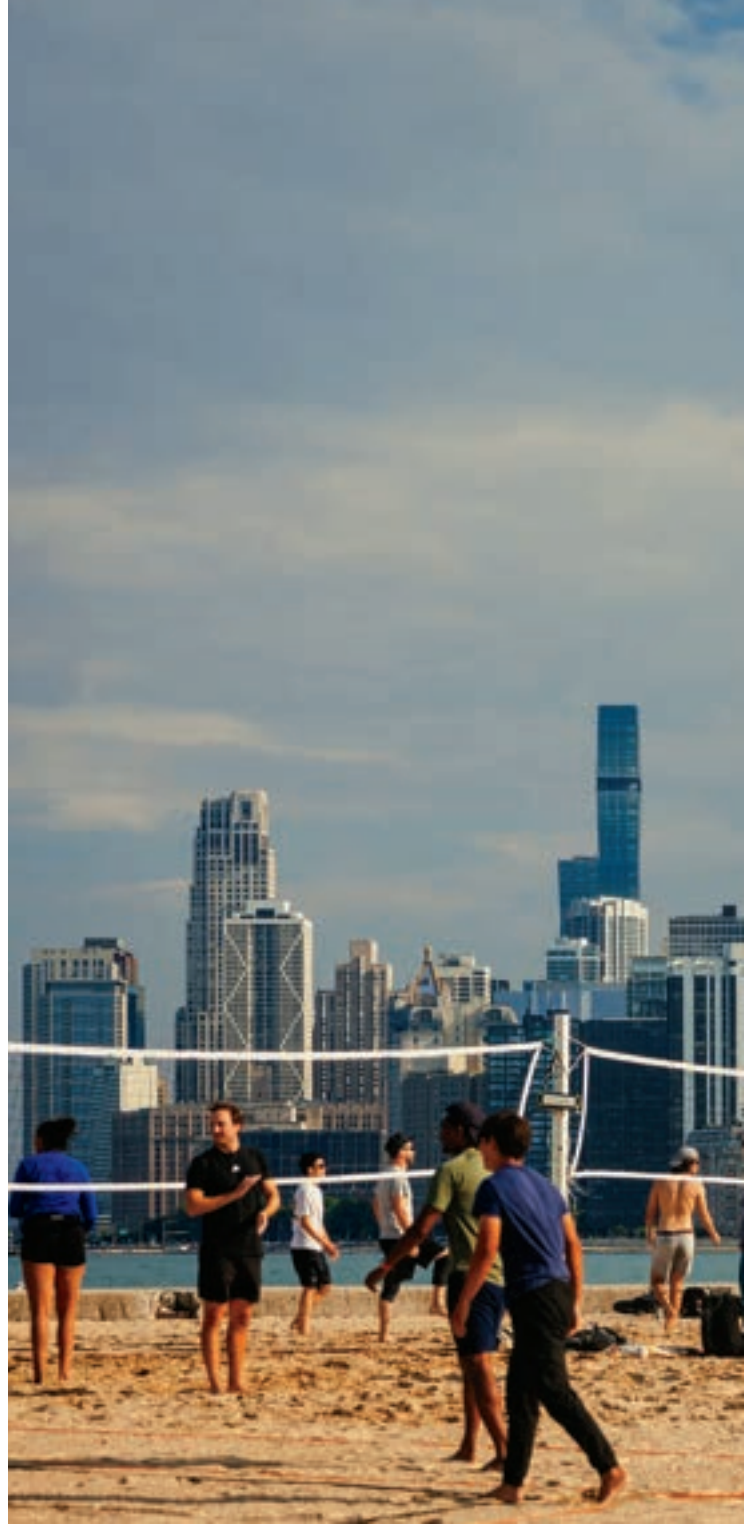
# 1

→ Fine art, an architecture cruise, and Al Capone's favorite jazz club

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From top: beach volleyball courts along the Lakefront Trail, with the city skyline behind; the signature sandwich at Al's #1 Italian Beef

Lake gulls swoop overhead and cyclists hum past me as I jog along glittering Lake Michigan. Chicago's **Lakefront Trail** is one of the city's signature green spaces, running nearly 20 miles along the western shore, with skyline views and sandy beaches dotted throughout. Just as I'm passing Ohio Street Beach, where two dogs are frolicking in the water, a girl jogging past me exclaims to her friend, "Dude, this is beautiful!" I couldn't agree more.



It's a quick run back to my hotel, the **Pendry Chicago**, inside Michigan Avenue's Art Deco Carbide and Carbon Building. I grab a cappuccino and a croissant from its airy French café, Venteux, and freshen up before heading over to **Millennium Park**, where I pass families taking photos of their reflections

in Anish Kapoor's *Cloud Gate*—aka The Bean—and admire the undulating steel Pritzker Pavilion, which hosts a slate of free concerts every summer.

Walking south on Columbus Drive, I reach the **Art Institute of Chicago**, which I enter via the Renzo Piano-designed Modern Wing. With



nearly 300,000 pieces in its permanent collection, the Art Institute could fill days of exploration. I merely attempt to squeeze in a few of its greatest hits: Marc Chagall's *America Windows*, which look more like watercolor than stained glass; the gauzy pointillism of Georges Seurat's *A Sunday on La Grande*

*Jatte*. Of course, I also hit the fabulously detailed Thorne Miniature Rooms, 68 tiny interiors—ranging from a 13th-century English Catholic church to a 1940s Modernist California living room—created by Chicago socialite and artist Narcissa Niblack Thorne. I can't look away from the postage stamp-size

paintings and tiny cutlery; it feels as if a thumb-size person could enter and start going about their business at any moment.

Next, I'm off to visit another local icon: **Al's #1 Italian Beef**. Thanks to the Chicago-set hit TV series *The Bear*, the Italian Beef sandwich is having a moment.



From left: children play at the Jaime Plensa-designed Crown Fountain in Millennium Park; looking up at architectural landmarks from the Chicago Riverwalk

Al's has been serving the Second City staple—thinly sliced roast beef on a French bread bun, dipped in jus and topped with spicy giardiniera and sweet peppers—since 1938, initially as a front for a bookmaking operation. I hop on the Red Line for a two-stop ride to the River North shop, and order “a regular beef, regular wet” (translation: a 6-inch-long

*“Seated on the roof deck, a local Revolution Brewing pilsner in hand, I spend the next 90 minutes learning to read the skyline.”*

sandwich, dipped in jus). The pillow-soft bun is the perfect complement to the spicy peppers and rich, juicy beef. Much as with an ice cream cone, eating a wet Italian beef is a race against the clock, and I inhale mine standing up at the counter.

From Al's, it's a 20-minute walk to the launch site for the **Chicago Architecture Center River Cruise**,

## THE OTHER CHICAGO PIZZA

Out-of-towners likely think of Chicago pizza as deep dish, but the city's *other* signature pie, the tavern-style pizza, has recently seen a chef-driven resurgence. This style has a thin, crispy crust and is cut into munch-size squares—which makes sense, since it was born as a drinking snack in South Side bars. Here are three of our favorite places to try it.



### Pat's Pizza & Ristorante

Established in 1950, this Lincoln Park institution remains family-owned to this day. The Pat's Special Pizza, topped with housemade Italian sausage, mushrooms, peppers, and onions, is a must-order.



### Professor Pizza

With locations in Old Town and, from Wednesday to Saturday, in the West Loop, Professor Pizza riffs on classic tavern pies with combinations such as mushroom leek and spinach artichoke.



### Middle Brow Bungalow

For most of the week, this Logan Square spot does Sicilian and Neapolitan slices, but on “Tavern Tuesdays” it slings tavern-style pies. Be sure to try the housemade natural wine and beer, too.

Courtesy of Pat's Pizza and Ristorante (Pat's); courtesy of Professor Pizza (Professor Pizza); Garrett Sweet (Middle Brow)

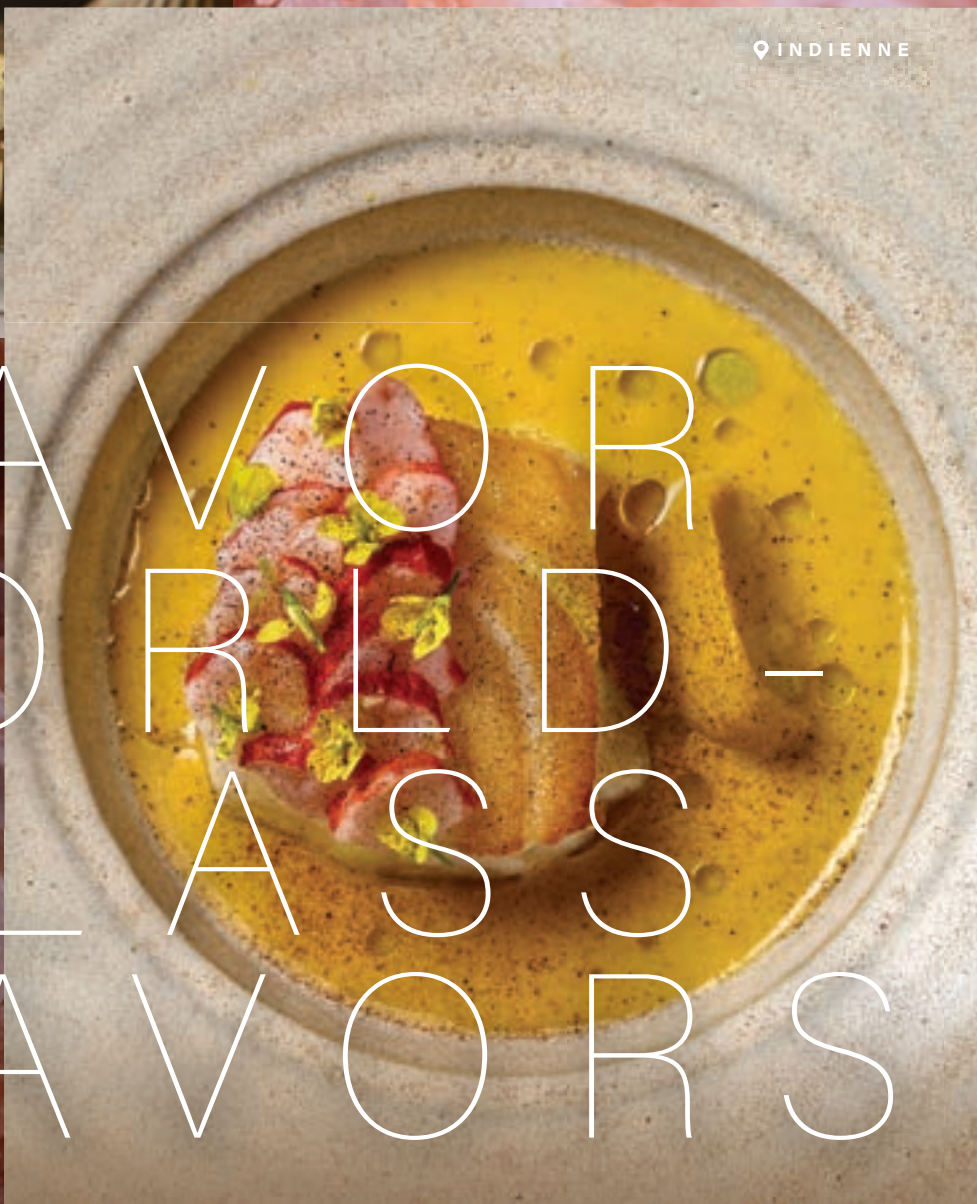
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This page, clockwise from above left: the Pendry Chicago hotel, at the Carbide and Carbon Building; a paneer roulade at Indienne; Anish Kapoor's *Cloud Gate*, aka The Bean, in Millennium Park; opposite page: viewing Georges Seurat's *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte* at the Art Institute of Chicago

beneath the DuSable Bridge. Seated on the roof deck, a local Revolution Brewing pilsner in hand, I spend the next 90 minutes learning how to read the skyline from Kent, our fast-talking volunteer docent. “Modernists,” he tells us as we cruise past the residential Lake Point Tower skyscraper, “are always trying to show you

how the building stands up.” Postmodern buildings, on the other hand, try to fit in with their surroundings—the green, reflective glass on the Gateway Center IV building being a prime example. Interspersed with Kent’s architectural criticism is a historical overview that includes the devastation of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the decision to reverse the flow of the Chicago River, away from the lake, in order to maintain the city’s drinking water. Of the river’s cleanliness today, he advises: “Just don’t drink it when you’re in it.”

After the tour, I’m inspired to visit one of the buildings we saw: The St. Regis Chicago, a turquoise-tinged, wavy skyscraper that’s the world’s tallest building designed by a woman, architect Jeanne Gang. A short walk down the pedestrian-only Riverwalk toward the lake brings me to the

**“A blackberry ‘bubble’ that explodes in your mouth prompts JT to exclaim, ‘How do they do that?’”**

hotel, whose Japanese-inspired **Mirū** restaurant has the perfect terrace for taking in the coming golden hour. While admiring the views of Navy Pier and the lake, I sip a Smoke on the River cocktail made with tequila, mezcal, persimmon liquor, lime, agave, and *togarashi* seasoning.

I could linger on the terrace all night, but it’s time to head back across the river, where I’m meeting a few college friends who are in town—JT, Amelia, and Kimberly—for dinner at **Indienne**. Amid blush-colored banquettes and abstract Holi-inspired



Kristen Mendelsohn (Indienne)





artwork, chef Sujan Sarkar has brought his blend of Indian flavors and European techniques to Chicago's teeming tasting-menu scene, earning a Michelin star within just a year of opening. Our six-course adventure kicks off with the arrival of the Gin Trolley, summoned by Amelia, who creates a custom concoction featuring saffron-infused Tanqueray and kokum fruit. (Kimberly and I opt for the wine pairing, which ranges from a sweet, sparkling Shirakabegura sake to a juicy Sicilian nerello mascalese.) The first bite, a *pani puri*-inspired buckwheat tart with a blackberry "bubble" that explodes in your mouth, prompts JT to exclaim, "How do they do that?" Our server reveals no secrets. The meal progresses with scallop marinated in *balchao* (a Goan sour chili sauce), *shami* lamb kebab with a mint sauce I want to lick off the plate, and chicken

*makhani* layered with pistachio and the creamiest dal I've ever tasted. By the last bite, I'm ready to pass out on the banquet.

There is, however, one more very important stop left to make. We take a 20-minute Uber ride to Uptown, where the flashing lights of the **Green Mill Cocktail Lounge** beckon. First opened in 1907, the bar became infamous during Prohibition, when one of Al Capone's associates turned it into a speakeasy. We settle into bar seats across from what was allegedly Capone's favorite booth and nurse Stellas as guitarist Joel Paterson and his band launch into some Chet Atkins, followed by the Western Swing classic "Saturday Night Rag." "We're pushing country music on you tonight—I'm not sure why," Paterson tells the crowd. Based on the volume of the applause, I can safely say no one minds.

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DAY

# 2

## → Mexican muralism, carnitas, and comedy

I greet the day from a several blocks—long line at **Kasama**, the world's first Michelin-starred Filipino restaurant. Husband-and-wife chef duo Genie Kwon and Tim Flores offer a tasting menu each night, but during the day Kasama is a bakery and walk-in café—although, after the place was featured in Season 2 of *The Bear*, “walk-in” means “wait for an hour outside.” “We were busy before, but *The Bear* brought a whole other demographic,” Kwon says. “You can tell who is visiting because they’ve seen the show based on their orders. The effect that came from it is more than we could have ever expected.” By the time I reach the front of the line,



I’ve worked up a serious appetite, and I overcompensate, ordering a *longanisa* sausage breakfast sandwich, a matcha-pandan eclair, and an ube-huckleberry Basque cake. I stow that last one in my bag for later, and hop in a rideshare headed 20 minutes due south, to Pilsen.

A neighborhood that’s been shaped by Mexican immigrants since the 1960s, Pilsen is home to the **National Museum of Mexican Art**, which boasts the largest Mexican art collection in the U.S., with more than 18,000 pieces. The current exhibition from the permanent collection explores the evolution of Mexican identity in North America through pieces such as Day of the Dead trees of life and Jesús Helguera’s *La Leyenda de los Volcanes*, a painting that depicts characters from a popular tragic myth. I’m most drawn to the work of local Xicágo artists devoted to capturing life in the city: There

are images of the South Side from photojournalist Antonio Pérez and a multimedia piece by Marcos Raya that incorporates dirty gloves and machinery parts, a reference to the industrial work many Mexican immigrants have had to take on in order to achieve the American Dream. Another gallery tells the story of Mariachi Potosino, a musical group founded by Durango native José Cruz Alba that became a Chicago institution.

On my way out, I meet Mario Hernández, a Pilsen native and a gallery education coordinator at the museum who has offered to show me some of the murals that have become a signature feature of the neighborhood. He explains that Pilsen’s first mural was painted in 1968, when increasing numbers of Mexican immigrants were arriving in Chicago, including artists who continued their home country’s long tradition of muralism here.

This page: diners at Kasama; opposite page: National Museum of Mexican Art gallery education coordinator Mario Hernández in front of a mural in Pilsen





**From left:** Kasama general manager Josh Daws serves Filipino breakfast plates; schoolchildren in a gallery at the National Museum of Mexican Art



“The content of the murals changes depending on the area and its people changing,” Hernández says, noting that, for more than a decade, gentrification has been a hot topic in the neighborhood.

The uneasy mood around neighborhood change is captured in a mural right across the street from the museum. The painting, by artists Hector Duarte and Gabriel Villa, spans two stories of the Pilsen Housing Cooperative. Its right side depicts a building emblazoned with a sign bearing the mural’s name, *Fight to Stay*, which Hernández says refers to “the real estate developers trying to buy people out.” Behind those words, tornadoes approach, which Hernández explains represent the displacement of families in Pilsen. Below, monarch butterflies serve as a nod to migration, and on the corner of the building the branches of a large tree stretch across the walls,

**“I’m most drawn to the work of local Xicágo artists devoted to capturing life in the city.”**

representing the tree of life and connection to one’s roots.

We continue along 18th Street, passing depictions of folkloric dancers and mosaics of Pilsen residents, before Hernández leaves me at **Carnitas Uruapan**, which has been slingng Michoacán-style roast pork since 1975. As soon as I walk in, I’m greeted with a sample and an explanation of the five different cuts from the pig. I settle on the Especial platter: a half-pound of carnitas, a fried potato taco, refried beans, chicharrones, piping-hot corn tortillas, and a hibiscus agua fresca.

I spread this feast out on a bench in **Harrison Park**, a few blocks to the west, and begin assembling my tacos, topping each one with fresh onions, tomatillo salsa, *pico de gallo*, and lime.

From here, I hop in an Uber, headed to the North Side’s Logan Square, known for its trendy bars, quirky boutiques, and, yes, acclaimed restaurants. Upon arriving at **Logan Square Park**, which is dotted with picnic blankets, I see a tattooed dog owner walking a poodle whose head and tail are dyed pink. I pop into **Wolfbait & B-girls**, just off the park, and browse locally designed gifts—earrings made from old Barbie shoes and vintage Chicago Parks posters—while trying to eavesdrop on the tarot reading happening at the counter. Then I poke my head into **City Lit Books**, where I pick up a copy of *The Mountain Goats* frontman John Darnielle’s novel *Devil*



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**From above:** eclectic clothing and home goods at Wolfbait & B-girls; housemade ravioli at Daisies

House from the staff picks shelf. I overhear a woman with a cat on a leash tell one of the shop clerks, “He’s good on the L.”

I walk on down North Milwaukee Avenue—known as the “Hipster Highway”—to **Daisies**, which bills itself as a “Midwestern Italian” restaurant and is beloved for its housemade pastas. Golden light streams through the large front windows, casting a magical glow on the exposed brick walls and

***“I pop into Wolfbait & B-girls and browse locally designed gifts while trying to eavesdrop on the tarot reading happening at the counter.”***

In the deepening dusk, I stroll another few blocks farther down North Milwaukee Avenue to **The Lincoln Lodge**, an indie, comedian-run comedy club. The club has existed for 23 years, churning out stand-up stars such as Hannibal Buress, Chelsea Peretti, and Kumail Nanjiani, although it only found a permanent home at the border of Logan Square, Wicker Park, and Bucktown in 2020. I watch comedians greet one another in the wood-paneled bar at the front of the room before they file into the small theater for “Sloppy Sundays,” billed as a weekly show of “alternative stand-up comedy.” Seven stand-ups rip through rapid-fire sets on topics including hair loss, public bathrooms, and Catholicism. While essentially none of what they say is printable here, I swear that by the end of the show I’m crying tears of laughter into my Miller High Life.



the diners deep in conversation. I take a seat at the roomy bar and start with a Physician’s Friend cocktail, which blends gin, alpine liqueur, and parsley soda. Next arrive pillowy *gnoccho frito* (served with carrot confit) and rigatoni covered in a fermented tomato sauce with spicy ’nduja and bright, crispy lemon breadcrumbs. To round out the meal, I savor a square of Goopy Butter Cake from the “Treats” section of the dessert menu.

Neil John Burger (Daisies)



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DAY

# 3

## → A new national park, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Southern cooking

This page: the Administration Clock Tower Building at Pullman National Historical Park; opposite page: inside the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Frederick C. Robie House

First thing, I move my bags to **The Publishing House Bed & Breakfast**, located in the West Loop, a former meat-packing district that's now a culinary hot spot. A 15-minute walk northeast from there is one of the spots that paved the way for the neighborhood's reimagining as a dining destination: **The Publican**, a beer-driven restaurant inspired by European taverns. I take a seat on the front patio and start with a Brunchbox cocktail (pilsner, amaro, grapefruit) before ordering a little gem and fennel salad topped with crunchy pig ears, a

melt-in-your-mouth strawberry rhubarb bostock (a sort of fancy cousin to French toast), and a *shakshuka* with whipped feta and pine nuts. On a warm, sunny day, Fulton Market offers prime people-watching, but I can't linger too long, as I'm off to explore another formerly industrial neighborhood—and Chicago's only National Park Service site.

A 20-minute drive away, on the Far South Side, the recently designated **Pullman National Historical Park** tells the story of the first planned industrial community in the U.S. via public tours of the grounds and preserved homes. In 1893, the Pullman Company housed more than 12,000 railroad car manufacturers here. Although the company built its last car in 1981, about 900 people still live in the neighborhood, drawn in by its affordability and suburban feel. Tom McMahon, who greets me at the Historic Pullman Foundation's

exhibit hall, is one of those residents; his family is in its fourth generation at Pullman.

Before we head out on a tour, McMahon explains why company founder George Pullman wanted to build and operate a town that was "free from the ills of modern society" for his workers. By offering prime 19th-century amenities—indoor plumbing, steam heating, one of the country's first shopping malls—he hoped to prompt better worker performance. "It's no different than Google," McMahon explains. "They want to create an environment where their employees want for nothing." This experiment famously backfired in 1894, when, following an economic depression, Pullman cut wages while also refusing to lower rents, resulting in a strike that led the federal government to establish Labor Day.

As we walk the 12-acre site, past tidy red-brick row houses with green lawns, McMahon explains how the









*“I pick up records from two iconic Chicago acts: The Staple Singers and Chaka Khan.”*

company’s hierarchy was reflected in the housing. Transient workers rented tenements, while on Supervisors Row the homes are three stories and have spacious front porches. We eventually make our way to the imposing Administration Clock Tower Building, now home to the National Park Service Visitor Center. We’re greeted by park ranger Elijah Olomoniyi, who leads us through the interactive exhibits, including a recreated Pullman luxury sleeper car and a dive into the history of the Pullman

Porters—the Black male workers whose organizing laid the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement. “A lot of people discount Chicago’s South Side,” Olomoniyi says, “but it’s extremely historically rich. The difference between Pullman and a lot of other places on the South Side is that [other neighborhoods] didn’t have people to advocate for them.”

These words stick with me as I make my way to Hyde Park and another South Side historic landmark: the **Fredrick C. Robie House**, the only Frank Lloyd Wright–designed house within the city limits that’s open to the public. The 1910 building, with its cantilevered roofs, is considered a quintessential example of Prairie-style architecture, which emphasizes horizontal plains, open floor plans, and natural light. During a 45-minute tour, I learn about how Wright took

inspiration from Japanese design, and how he created a compression effect by using low ceilings to “build anticipation” as visitors enter. When our guide explains that the house has no basement or attic because Wright



**From top:** music fans dig through the racks at Hyde Park Records; pork rinds at The Publican

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This page, from above left: James Beard Award-winning chef Erick Williams; blackened catfish with barbecued carrots at Virtue; opposite page: a bartender mixes a cocktail at After

believed they would “create clutter,” it occurs to me that the architect may have been the Marie Kondo of the 20th century.

From the Robie House, I stroll east to the 550-acre **Jackson Park**, envisioned by Central Park designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. I wander the tranquil paths in the Garden of the Phoenix—originally part of the Japanese pavilion

at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition—and pass the shining silver petals of Yoko Ono’s *Sky Landing* sculpture. Even the “keep off” signs inspire a sense of peace; one reads, “Shh, baby moss at rest.”

I pick up a Divvy bikeshare and ride north to East 53rd Street, which is lined with shops and restaurants, including former president Barack Obama’s favorite

*“The mood in the dining room feels so convivial that when a man at the table next to mine asks to try my collard greens, I don’t realize he’s joking.”*

## WHERE TO STAY

### Pendry Chicago

The 1929 Carbide and Carbon Building, designed during Prohibition to resemble a giant Champagne bottle, gets an additional splash of cool from this 364-room hotel. Cozy up by the fireplace in the lobby’s Bar Pendry or head up to the rooftop Chateau Carbide for skyline views and absinthe cocktails. Located near the Riverwalk and Millennium Park, it’s the perfect base for exploring the city. [pendry.com](http://pendry.com)

### The Publishing House Bed & Breakfast

Proprietor Kimberly Lowery wants guests at her West Loop B&B to feel like “they have a key to their friend’s loft” for the weekend. (This assumes your friend has impeccable taste in vintage furniture and will cook you goat cheese and tomato scrambles for breakfast.) The 11 rooms lean into the building’s history as a publishing house, with each named for a writer of, or character from, a local novel. [publishinghousebnb.com](http://publishinghousebnb.com)

### Hyatt Regency Chicago

To mark the 50th anniversary of its opening, the largest hotel in Illinois completed a \$150 million renovation this June. The Riverwalk-facing property boasts 2,032 guest rooms and suites, all of which have been meticulously reimaged, as well as 240,000 square feet of meeting space. Toast the property’s milestone at Big Bar, which features North America’s longest freestanding bar. [hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com)

diner, Valois. At **Hyde Park Records**, a neighborhood staple for four decades, I pick up records from two iconic Chicago acts: The Staple Singers and Chaka Khan. Then I swing into the **The Silver Room**, a palo santo-scented boutique and community arts space, to browse jewelry and South Side-branded sweatshirts. I’m perusing silver cuffs when I realize it’s time for dinner, down the block at **Virtue**.



Chicago native Erick Williams's restaurant has won James Beard Awards two years in a row for its nuanced and delicious exploration of Black American foodways. As I sip a Hyde Park Sazerac, the kitchen churns out a parade of refined Southern classics: blackened catfish with barbecued carrots, rich gumbo with chicken and andouille sausage, and fluffy pimento cheese biscuits. Cauliflower, brined and smothered in black garlic and served over a bed of jollof-style bulgur, is a surprise favorite. The mood in the dining room, decorated with sculptures by renowned Chicago artist Theaster Gates, feels so convivial that when a man at the table next to mine asks to try my collard greens, I don't realize he's joking.

Grab an Uber back toward the West Loop to end my night, fittingly, at **After**, the companion cocktail bar to the Michelin-starred tasting-menu restaurant Ever (which, despite what *The Bear* will

tell you, is still open). The cavernous space feels like a sci-fi movie set, with low, blue-gray lighting and slender mirrors glittering behind the bar. I order the Hades—G4 blanco tequila, amaro, jalapeño, and shiso—which requires the vest-wearing bartender to affix a skull-shaped hibiscus ice cube to the glass with liquid nitrogen. I look around the room at friends and couples huddling in close conversation over their drinks, feeding on the energy of the room and a night that's just beginning in this ever-evolving city.



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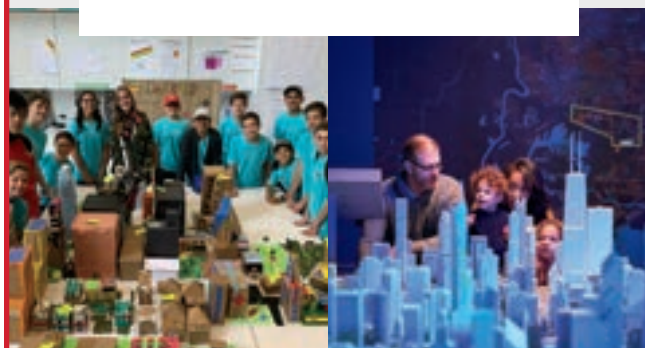


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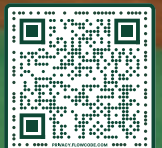


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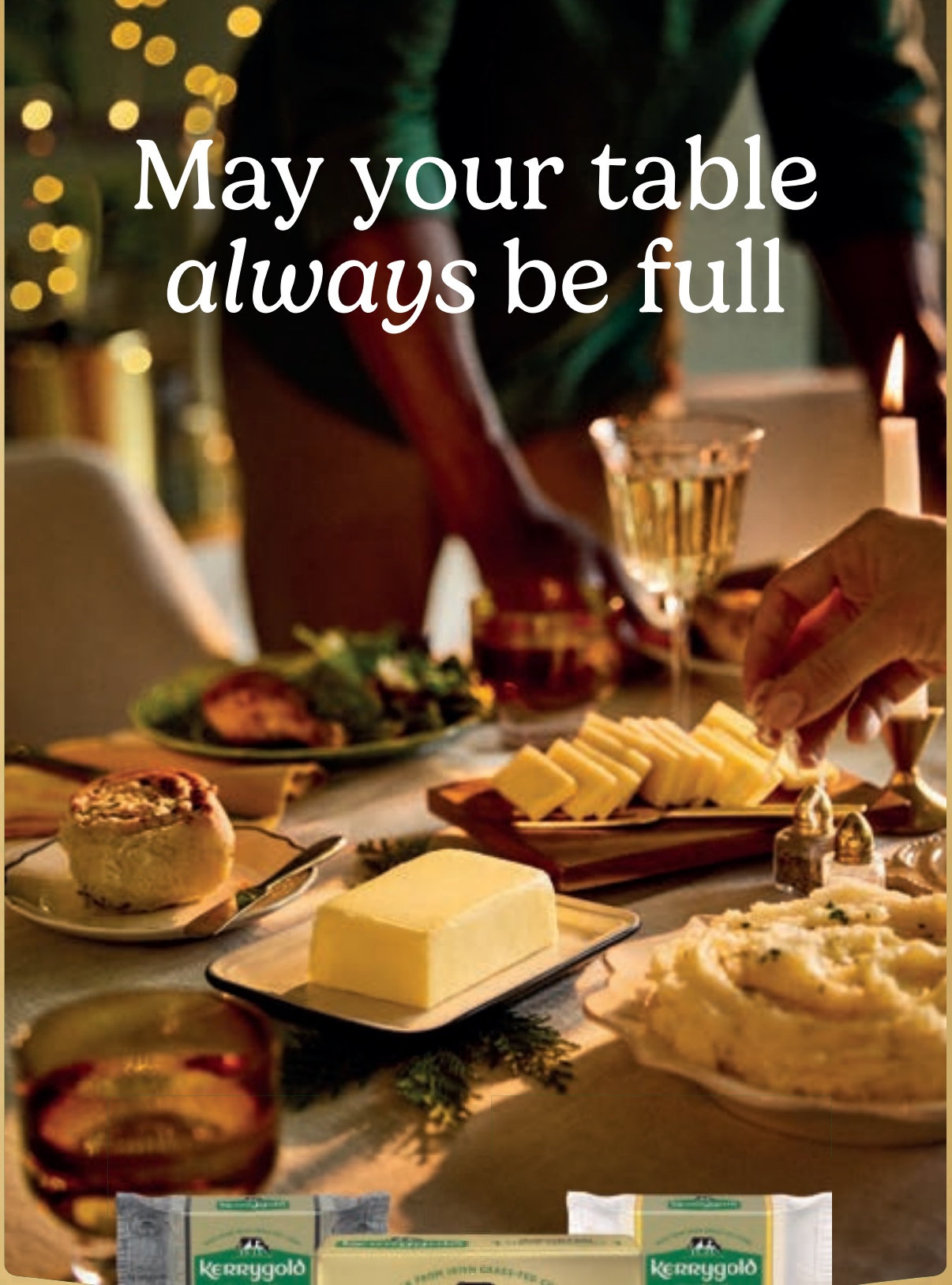


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Ortaköy

## FOR HISTORY BUFFS

The historic peninsula where İstanbul was born is a true treasure trove, offering a wealth of exceptional landmarks to be explored during a delightful day's stroll starting from Sultanahmet Square.

- ▶ Visit the recently renovated **İstanbul Archaeological Museums** to explore masterpieces of antiquity, including an impressive collection of sarcophagi depicting mythological scenes as well as the world's first known love poem carved on terracotta and dating back 4,000 years to the time of the Sumerians. ▶ **Topkapı Palace**, the former residence of the Ottoman sultans, gives visitors the chance to discover the splendor of the empire's court and the beautifully tiled harem—the private chambers where the sovereign lived with his family. The palace is a unique maze of courtyards, pavilions, kiosks and chambers now used as exhibition halls displaying iconic pieces from the renowned collection.
- ▶ Feel an enveloping peace under the cascading domes of the

**Hagia Sophia, Süleymaniye and Blue (Sultanahmet) Mosques.** Visit the recently inaugurated Hagia Sophia History and Experience Museum to learn the unique story of this awe-inspiring monument. ▶ Discover the distinct aquatic heritage of the city, including the 6th-century **Basilica Cistern**, a subterranean marvel adorned with columns brought from ancient temples.

## FOR CULTURE ENTHUSIASTS

To feel a part of the vibrant city culture, one should venture deeper into the neighborhoods of İstanbul, all inviting microcosms unto themselves. Here is a quick itinerary to follow, from the heart of Beyoğlu to the shores of Kadıköy.

- ▶ **İstiklal Street**, the city's famous 2-km pedestrian thoroughfare, has been the center of food, arts and entertainment for more than a century. Start your adventurous walk from **Taksim Square**. This celebrated urban nexus is the city's cultural heartbeat once again, thanks to the renovated **Atatürk Cultural**



Dolmabahçe



Arnavutköy



Galata Tower



Topkapı Palace



Turkish mezes

Center (Atatürk Kültür Merkezi), a vanguard palace for the performance arts. ▶ After making its way past several architectural jewels—the alluring 19th-century townhouses and imposing St. Antuan Church spring to mind—İstiklal Street makes its way to the Galata neighborhood. Here you'll quickly be swept into the city's buzzing contemporary life, with its wide array of fashion and design studios, art galleries, coffee houses, fine-dining restaurants and scenic terrace lounges all lining the cobbled streets that culminate in the 14th-century **Galata Tower**. ▶ Next, take a nostalgic ride on the 19th-century underground funicular line, the **Tünel**, connecting Galata to Karaköy. A short distance away, the **Tophane** neighborhood awaits those looking to immerse themselves in the city's contemporary art scene. After exploring **İstanbul Modern**, the city's newly reopened modern art destination, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, continue on to see the full expanse of **Galataport**. This unique 1.5-km waterfront complex boasting the world's first underground cruise ship terminal also offers exclusive fashion stores, art spaces and a fine selection of food and cocktail purveyors on the Bosphorus (İstanbul Strait). ▶ And here, hop on a ferry from **Karaköy** or **Beşiktaş** for a scenic ride to **Kadıköy** on the city's Asian side. Time permitting, enjoy the sunset over the historic peninsula or turn your attention to the shimmering lights of the recently renovated **Maiden's Tower** as you near the other continent. As a thriving art and cultural district, Kadıköy has an undeniably youthful vibe and lively street energy.

### FOR FOODIES

From Ottoman palace cuisine and fresh fish from the Bosphorus coast to unique gourmet experiences provided by restaurants making the lists of the world's best, there's so much to explore for dedicated gourmands in this city of never-ending flavors.

▶ Starting your day with a **classical Turkish breakfast** is a must when you are in İstanbul. Prepare for an expansive feast and its plethora of salty and sweet delectables, including the regional egg dish, *menemen*, cured meats, local cheese and olive varieties, jams, fruits and nuts, and local bread types (the sesame seed-crust *simit* is a favorite), as well as a brimming pot of Turkish black tea, of course! ▶ Have a feast in a traditional **meyhane**, where a rich selection of *mezes* (cold and hot appetizers) is accompanied by glasses of *rakı* (the region's famed anise liqueur)—a terrific setting for long chats among friends and the occasional street musician. ▶ Indulge in the imaginative tasting menus of a new generation of **restaurants with MICHELIN Star**, celebrating and expounding on Anatolia's rich tradition of recipes and ingredients. These bites are well-paired with local wines, selected from Türkiye's burgeoning boutique vineyards.

### FOR STYLE HUNTERS

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▶ Visit the **Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı)** for classics like *hamam* accessories (olive oil soaps and *pesthemals*) and jewelry, as well as exquisite textiles and kilims. **Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı)**, on the other hand, has been flourishing since its opening in 1664 with its iconic mounds of spices in a full spectrum of colors and traditional sweets, dried fruits and nuts, as well as freshly roasted Turkish coffee. ▶ **Galataport** and the adjacent **Post Office Fashion Galleria** should be on your itinerary for seeking the best in local fashions and designs. ▶ With their charming boutiques and flagship stores of local and international brands, **Nişantaşı** and **Bağdat Street** await for a full day of shopping indulgence.

### A SLICE OF NATURE IN THE METROPOLIS FOR NATURE LOVERS

And not to be overlooked, İstanbul has ample waterways, an aquatic culture, islands and beaches, and adjoining forests galore! For those seeking a respite from the hustle and bustle, the beauty of nature is just a stone's throw away.

▶ No İstanbul visit would be complete without a trip along Bosphorus—the impressive 30-km natural waterway bringing Europe and Asia continents together. You can hop on a commuter or tourist ferry departing from Eminönü. Or perhaps book a private yacht at sunset and enjoy the refreshing northerly breezes and verdant shores. The small coastal neighborhoods of Ortaköy, Arnavutköy, Kuruçeşme, and Bebek await you as well.

▶ Finally, a pleasant hourlong ferry ride will take you to the **Princes' Islands**, long admired by residents as a wistful escape from city life. The islands are renowned for their acclaimed fish restaurants as well as pristine hotels and guesthouses. This cluster of nine small islands offers car-free cobblestone streets framed by historic mansions, many festooned with mimosas, bougainvillea, and other colorful flowers.

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- 6 One MICHELIN Star restaurants: Arkestra, Sankai by Nagaya, Araka, Nicole, Mikla, Neolokal
- 18 Bib Gourmand restaurants
- 52 selected restaurants
- 2 MICHELIN Green Star restaurants: Circle by Vertical, Neolokal
- 1 MICHELIN Service Award: Tuğra Restaurant
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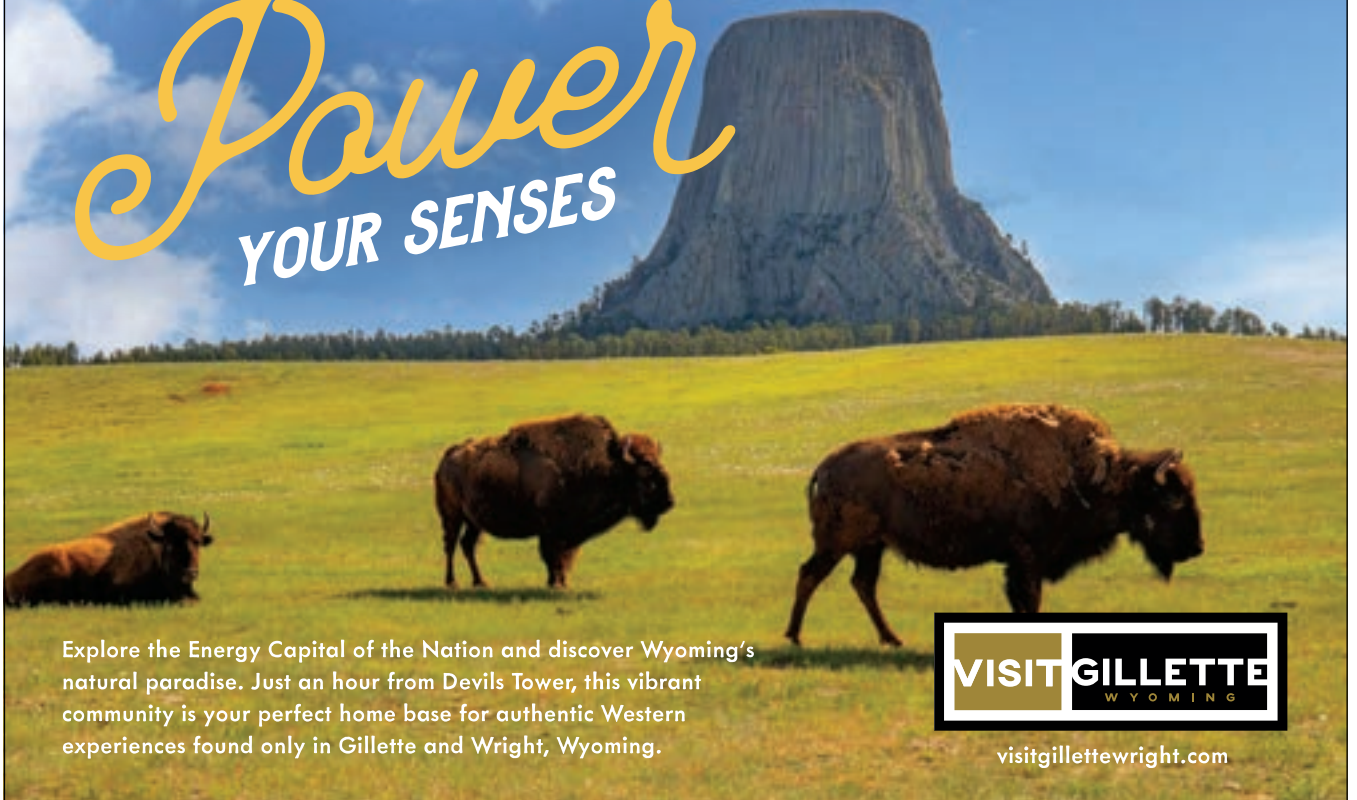
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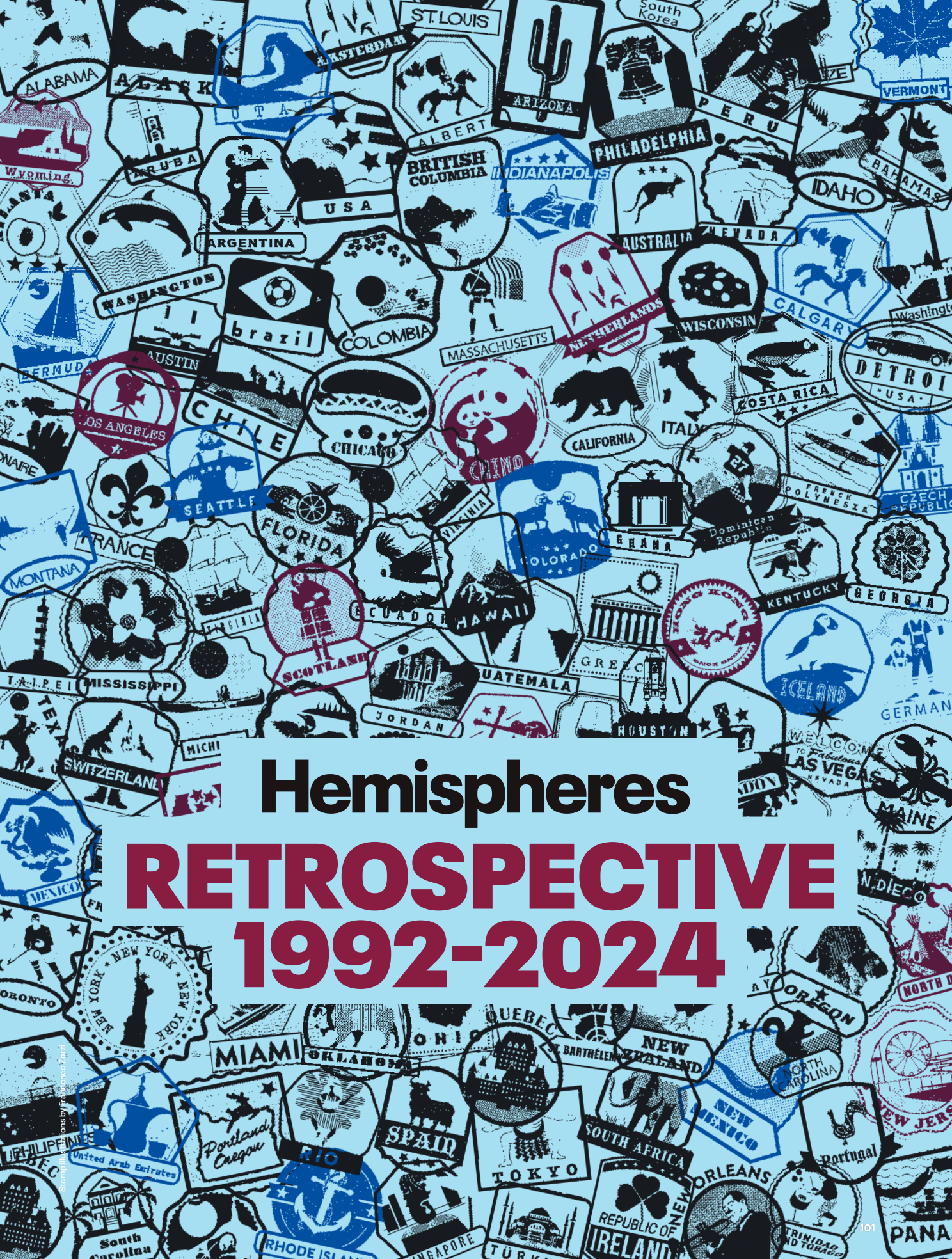
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# Hemispheres

# RETROSPECTIVE

# 1992-2024

# Through the Years...

From award-winning illustrators to globe-trotting photographers, *Hemispheres* has featured the work of many talented people on its cover. Here are some of our favorites.



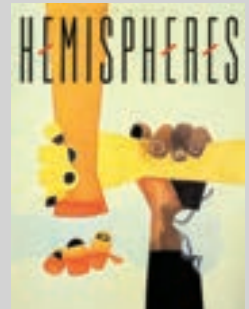
October 1992  
Illustration:  
Ikko Tanaka



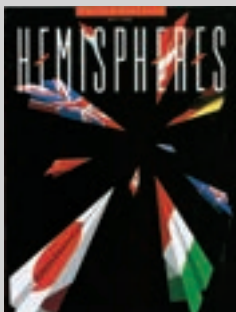
June 1993  
Illustration:  
Stasys Eidrigėvičius



November 1994  
Illustration:  
Alfredo Ramos Martínez



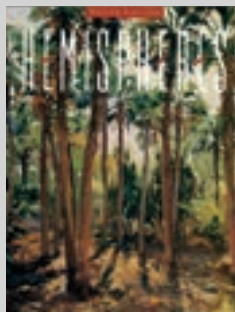
October 1995  
Illustration:  
George Giusti



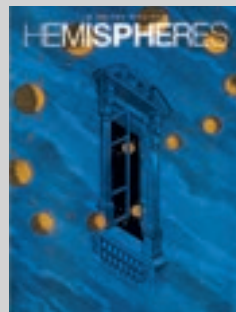
May 1996  
Illustration:  
Michael Gericke



November 1997  
Illustration:  
Michael Cassidy



October 1998  
Illustration:  
West Fraser



January 1999  
Illustration:  
István Orosz



October 2000  
Illustration:  
Hula Heaven, Kona



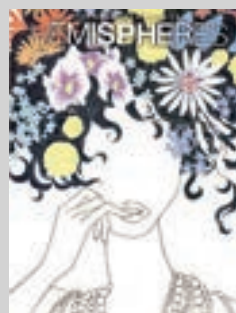
December 2001  
Illustration:  
Peter Sylvada



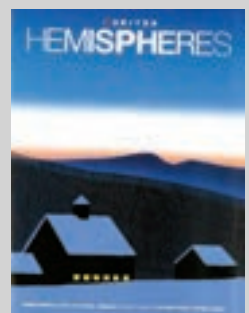
May 2002  
Illustration:  
Poul Webb



June 2003  
Illustration:  
Murray Kimber



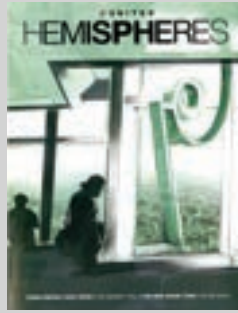
April 2004  
Illustration:  
Yoko Ikeno



November 2005  
Illustration:  
Sabra Field



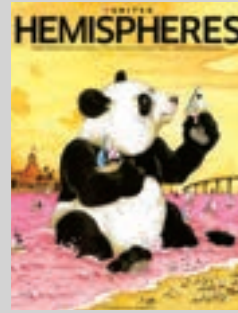
June 2006  
Illustration:  
Francis Livingston



April 2007  
Illustration:  
Margaret Lee



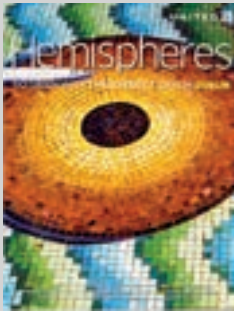
September 2008  
Illustration:  
Phil



June 2009  
Illustration:  
John Hendrix



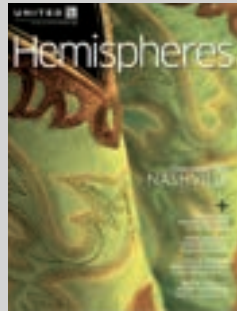
May 2010  
Illustration:  
Brecht Evens



July 2011  
Photography:  
Brian Park



May 2012  
Photography:  
Pedro Guimarães



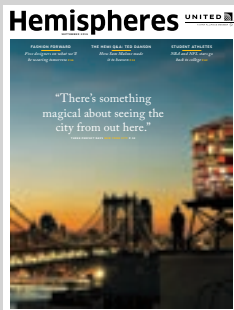
December 2013  
Photography:  
Vince Wallace



July 2014  
Photography:  
Neil DaCosta



April 2015  
Photography:  
Travel Pictures/Alamy



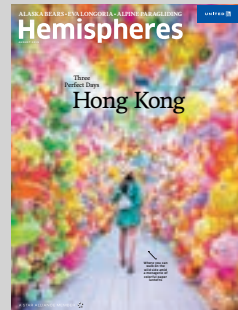
September 2016  
Photography:  
Mark Hartman



April 2017  
Photography:  
Lauryn Ishak



November 2018  
Photography:  
Rebecca Stumpf



August 2019  
Photography:  
Victor Cheng



September 2020  
Photography:  
Alanna Hale



April 2021  
Photography:  
Marco Argüello



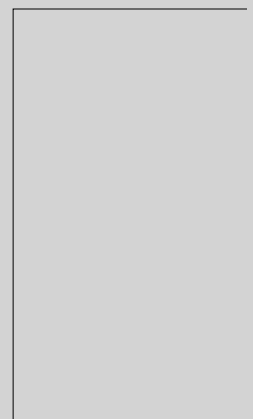
November 2022  
Photography:  
Aaron Colussi



April 2023  
Photography:  
Joanna Yee



September 2024  
Illustration:  
Ziggy Pha



# One Perfect Memory

Writers and photographers share their favorite moments from their trips to report and shoot *Hemispheres*' signature "Three Perfect Days" cover story

---

From the debut issue of *Hemispheres*, "Three Perfect Days" has been the signature travel feature that distinguishes United's magazine. I was lucky enough to be there at the beginning, working as senior editor alongside founding editor in chief Kate Greer, whose original concept was to give United's flyers an alternative to the usual assortment of travel stories in favor of a fully vetted, chronologically tested itinerary based on insider information from expert local writers. "Three Perfect Days" has gone through decades of evolution and refinement since, and over the years this influential approach to curating a sophisticated travel experience has been widely emulated—even blatantly imitated—but never equaled.

Thanks to a worldwide network of authors and photographers (not to mention *Hemispheres*' editorial and art staff), United customers have always been able to rely on "Three Perfect Days" to evoke, and ultimately inspire, their actual trips. Individual articles, and the series itself, have won numerous awards over the years, and "Three Perfect Days" even supported a TV program that ran on the Travel Channel for three years and was syndicated globally.

As we look forward to a new, digital future for the series, we can't help but look back at some of the perfect moments we've savored while bringing so many perfect days to you.

---

—Randy Johnson, *Hemispheres* senior editor, 1992–1996; editor in chief, 1996–2009





### A New Friend in Panama

Travel is a wonderful window into other places, but even more so into other cultures and viewpoints, and the people *Hemispheres* allowed me to meet expanded my world and mind. One of these people was Zaira Lombardo, owner of Papiro y Yo in **Panama City**, who, after we finished making her portraits, took me out with her team for the best margaritas in Casco Antiguo and a rollicking conversation on things local and global. —Chris Sorensen



### An Elevated Stay in South Africa

Reporting the “Three Perfect Days” on **Johannesburg** was an absolute dream. After spending a couple of days in the city—soaking up the art and culinary splendor while also reckoning with the country’s fraught history—my family and I ventured to Kruger National Park for a safari. We saw lions, elephants, zebras, rhinos, and more antelope than I knew existed. On our last night, Micato Safaris, the fantastic tour operator I worked with to plan the trip, surprised us with a stay at the &Beyond Ngala Treehouse, located in the middle of the game reserve and totally off the grid. I’ll never forget lying on the rooftop platform bed with my family, under a blanket of stars, as lions roared below in the darkness. —Ellen Carpenter



### A Glowworm Cave in New Zealand

I’m not a thrill-seeker in my daily life, but I realized early on in my travel-writing career that I’d need to dive into any experience, or I’d really be missing out. I vividly remember reporting in **New Zealand** and going to the Waitomo Caves, a series of underground tunnels lit by the otherworldly bioluminescence of glowworms. The guided tour started with me holding a rubber inner tube behind my back and then jumping butt-first into a dark hole that looked like a manhole above the abyss. It was terrifying, but in that moment I flipped a switch in my brain and just decided to trust the guides and go with it. Once underground, we careened through icy rapids in near-pitch darkness, in caves populated by enormous insects called wetas and eels that grow up to five feet long (and bite). The experience ended up being pure magic, and it recalibrated my entire approach to travel and, in some small way, life in general. —Nicholas DeRenzo



### A Late-Night Card Game in Palau

My favorite *Hemispheres* reporting moment was a mistake. In **Palau**, a Micronesian archipelago widely known as a divers' paradise, I accidentally booked a rural hotel with no other guests on an island that couldn't have been more than an acre in size. A boat delivered me there and said it would return in two days. There were no trails, no TVs, no swimming pools, no roads, no shops, no restaurants. I drank a ton of powdered coffee and then lay in a hammock and stared at a tree, thinking, *Oh my god, what have I done?* That evening, the property's Filipino handyman, Gary, took pity on me and let me help spearfish for dinner in the island's tiny lagoon. Later, Gary dug out a deck of cards and a six-pack of Red Horse beer, and he and I and an older man who just went by "Uncle" drank and played cards in the moonlight while a warbling old radio played covers of rock ballads and critters chattered in the lagoon as if humans had never existed.

—Jacqueline Detwiler-George

### A Flock of Parrots in Belize

Bird-watching is huge in **Belize**, so I knew it needed to play a role in my "Three Perfect Days" story. I set out early with birding legend Roni Martinez to Black Rock Lodge, hoping to spot the emerald toucanets and hawk-eagles for which the area is known. As soon as we stepped into the lodge's open-air riverfront restaurant, a flock of squawking scarlet macaws came soaring over the river—something that had rarely, if ever, been seen there. Guests, guides, and locals alike whooped and cheered, and although the moment didn't make it into the final story, it remains one of my best memories of Belize.

—Ali Wunderman



### A Parking Lot Savior in Andalusia

Getting stuck in **Ronda, Spain**, while reporting the "Three Perfect Days" in Málaga, is a vivid memory. At first, I was merely stuck in horrific traffic. Then I *literally* got stuck, under the ground in a parking garage, when the machine that lifts the gate broke. Everyone was honking at me, gesturing, then yelling in Spanish. I was fumbling my phrases, trying to explain that I didn't break it, and, worse, I couldn't fix it. The line of cars behind me grew and grew. Eventually an attendant appeared out of nowhere and fixed the machine by pushing 50 buttons and then whacking it. The best part of the day was arriving, finally, at the La Fonda Heritage hotel in Marbella and sinking gratefully into the softest bed on earth. —Jenny Adams



### A Tiny Car in a Giant German Factory

At the ginormous BMW World in **Munich**, I was offered a unique chance to drive around the packed exhibition hall in a 1950s Isetta—the original front-opening bubble car. The thing was so tiny I could barely squeeze into it, let alone see anything or steer. I just remember trying not to hit any of the million-dollar vehicles while hundreds of visitors first started to film me and then began leaping out of the way, screaming. —Boyd Farrow

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## A Hot Soak in Snowy Idaho

This image of Burgdorf Hot Springs in **Idaho** shows the writer, Hannah Lott-Schwartz, and my wife, Jenny, who was “modeling” for the story. We took a snowmobile 10 or 15 miles from McCall in a driving snowstorm and 10-below weather to the backcountry resort, and when we arrived we found we had the place to ourselves. The water was around 100 degrees, a stark contrast with the temperature outside. This particular image took a few attempts to get because my drone was too cold to fly—but I think it was worth it.

—Aaron Colussi



## A Quiet Moment in Petra

The ancient rock city of Petra, in **Jordan**, is packed with tourists and touts from sun-up until dark, and it lay in deep shadow for most of the day, with only a small slice of direct sunlight in the midmorning. Through patience and luck, I was able to capture a seemingly quiet moment with editor Ellen Carpenter and her son, Calder. The sun was where it needed to be, and the dozens of visitors and guides all faded beyond my frame for just a moment. This shot truly expresses, I think, the wonder and discovery that is so closely tied to Petra. —Scott Suchman



## A Tokyo Guide for Everyone

Before I went to **Tokyo**, I bought an unusual guide: a small but thick red book, *An Official Guide to Japan*, printed by the Japanese government railways in 1933. Wherever I went in Tokyo, I showed it to all kinds of people—concierges and waiters, yes, but also tourists and strangers. Shared with locals, it was more than just a sign of respect for Japan's past; it helped us bond over feeling like strangers in that strange land that is time itself. It was a beautiful reminder that journeys are not only about where, but *when*. A new friend looked up his neighborhood and read that it was known for fireworks. He laughed. "It's still true!" There is a saying that we live only to discover beauty, that all else is a form of waiting; the beauty of the way his eyes lit up in that moment was worth the near-century of waiting. —Richard Morgan

## A Secret Samba Spot in Rio

When I went to **Rio de Janeiro**, I brought along my college roommate Rob. One night, we went to check out Lapa, an area that's known for having the best party scene in the legendarily festive city. Avenida Mem de Sá overflowed with revelers, not totally dissimilar to what Rob and I used to see on Del Playa Drive during our days at UC Santa Barbara—although here the backdrop was an 18th-century aqueduct, the Arcos da Lapa. The caipirinhas flowed, the hour got late, and at some point we did something you're absolutely *not* supposed to do in Rio: We wandered down a dark side street. In the shadows, we found a narrow bar that was *packed* with Brazilians. A thunderously loud samba band played in the middle of the low-ceilinged room, and we joined the crowd in singing, clapping, and dancing. The room shook with the energy of it. I knew, in that moment, we had found the *real* Rio. —Justin Goldman





### A Different View of New York

I've been a New Yorker for 17 years, and the **New York City** shoot was a rare chance to see my city through a traveler's eyes. I explored a lot of spaces that I'd never been to, including Kenzo Digital's installations at Summit One Vanderbilt. One of the gifts of photography is that you sometimes get entry to spaces without the crowds. This room is extremely popular during normal operating hours, but we were granted permission to arrive before opening. Watching the sun rise over the city and experiencing this ethereal artwork totally alone was something I will always remember. This image, in my eyes, captured the renewed magic of a city that was just starting to feel like itself again, post-pandemic.

—Michael George



### A Walk with a Countess in Venice

The morning I spent in **Venice** with Erica Rocca—countess, cooking teacher, raconteur—was wonderful. First, she ran me around the Rialto Fish Market, bartering with vendors while casting aspersions on squid and scallop. Next came All'Arco, a standing-room-only *bacaro* selling finger food and wine to locals. Later, in a run-down alley, Rocca gestured up at a line of brick buttresses keeping the tottering buildings apart. "I love these," she said. "This ... *game of arches*." And there it was, a small point of light in a city bustling with superstars. I've rarely seen anything lovelier. —Chris Wright

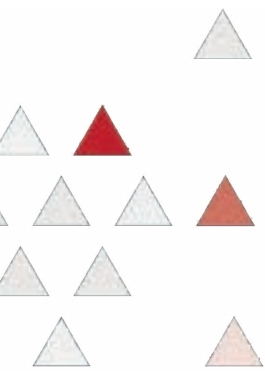


### A Second Line in New Orleans

While on staff at *Hemispheres*, I was lucky, shrewd, and greedy enough to photograph eight "Three Perfect Days" features. No experience provided the same kind of immersive, joyous thrill as a **New Orleans** Second Line. Brass bands blared, DJs worked the crowd, paradegoers strutted, and smoke wafted from charcoal grills along the route. Getting paid to dance while taking photos—what more can you ask for? —Sam Polcer

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### An Appalachian Outlook in Virginia

I brought my friend Kelly along as my assistant on the “Three Perfect Days” shoot in **Virginia**, and we had a packed schedule, waking before dawn to capture sunrise and going deep into the night visiting lively cocktail bars. We were also driving for hours and hours, which sounds implausible, but you realize how big Virginia is when you drive it corner to corner. On the last day, we hiked up a mountain for a Shenandoah Valley vista. We reached the top and congratulated each other for surviving the one-hour hike from the parking lot—much to the amusement of two hikers who were in the middle of a months-long trek on the Appalachian Trail. The view was magnificent, and the four of us enjoyed the sunset together, before Kelly and I hiked back down in the moonlight. —Jennifer Chase


### A Perfect Picture in French Polynesia

While shooting the **Islands of Tahiti**, I was scouting Huahine with writer Jill Robinson and our guide. We started walking along a pier at Huahine Lagoon, and I noticed a group of kids swimming. I immediately went into travel-photographer mode, twisting Jill and the guide around on the narrow pier so I could snap photos of the swimmers. The kids soon realized what I was doing, and they began showing off, jumping off the pier one at a time. We started collaborating with hand gestures and smiles. Eventually, one of the girls happened to sit perfectly at the center of the pier, and I clicked the shutter. So often, I work with photo editors, art directors, models, and assistants to plan and execute the perfect cover shot—but sometimes the best photos find you. You just have to be in the right place at the right time. —Tanveer Badal

Jennifer Chase (Virginia), Tanveer Badal (Huahine)







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**162**

Airports served in 1992

**348**

Airports served in 2024



**6**

Direct United destinations in Europe from the U.S. in 1992 (London, Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Milan, and Berlin)

**30**

Direct United destinations in Europe from the U.S. today (recently added cities include Nice, Naples, Dubrovnik, and Stockholm)

**1**

Direct United destinations in Mexico in 1992 (Mexico City)

**22**

Direct United destinations in Mexico today (including Guadalajara, Los Cabos, and Tulum)



**5**

Islands at which the “Island-Hopper” route stops between Honolulu and Guam (Majuro, Kwajalein, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk); our fleet of 737s on Guam serves 15 airports across 6 countries

**0**

United destinations in Africa and the Middle East in 1992

**7**

Direct United destinations in Africa and the Middle East from the U.S. today (Accra, Lagos, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Amman, Dubai, and Tel Aviv, with Marrakesh soon to come)



Courtesy of United Airlines (plane); KKK/vintage/Stock/Getty Images (islands); Nerthuz/Stock/Getty Images (pyramid); arcaidy\_31/Stock/Getty Images (phone booth);



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**1**

Direct United destinations in the Caribbean in 1992 (Puerto Rico)

**22**

Direct United destinations in the Caribbean today (including Cuba, Aruba, and four airports in the Dominican Republic)



**5**

Airlines, including United, that formed the original Star Alliance in 1997

**26**

Airlines, including United, that are current Star Alliance members

**3**

Direct United destinations in Canada in 1992 (Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver)

**8**

Direct United destinations in Canada today (Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver)

**4**

Direct United destinations in South America from the U.S. in 1992 (Buenos Aires, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo)

**8**

Direct United destinations in South America from the U.S. today (plus service to Medellín starts next month)



**1**

Direct United destinations in Spain from the U.S. in 1992 (Madrid)

**5**

Direct United destinations in Spain from the U.S. today (Barcelona, Madrid, Málaga, Mallorca, and Tenerife)

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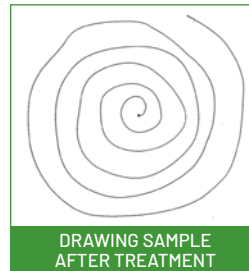
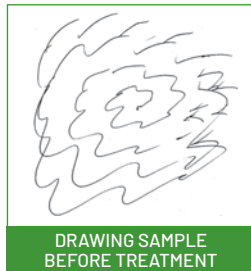
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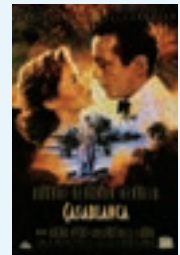
**120**

Airbus A321neo aircraft that United has on order to grow its fleet today



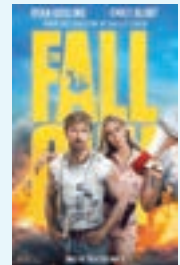
**50**

Airbus A320 aircraft that United leased when the companies reached their first agreement in 1992



**5**

Films available to watch on an international flight in 1992: *Casablanca*, *Straight Talk*, *Batman Returns*, *The Player*, and *Patriot Games*



**364**

Films available to watch on any flight in 2024, either on a seatback screen or a personal device; New releases this month include *The Fall Guy* and *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*

**50-60**

Average inches of pitch for an international first-class seat on a U.S. airline in 1992

**78**

Length, in inches, of a United Polaris® flatbed in 2024



**2000**

Year United launches its first website

**2002**

Year online booking becomes available

**2009**

Year the United mobile app debuts

Courtesy of United Airlines (planes, Polaris flatbed), movies/Alamy Stock Photo (Casablanca)

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**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

**49**

PERCENT OF U.S. ADULTS WHO HAD FLOWN IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN 2023

**42**

INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS SERVED BY UNITED IN 1992

**76**

PERCENT OF U.S. ADULTS WHO HAD EVER FLOWN IN 1992

**33**

PERCENT OF U.S. ADULTS WHO HAD FLOWN IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN 1992

**134**

INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS SERVED BY UNITED IN 2024

**86**

PERCENT OF U.S. ADULTS WHO HAD EVER FLOWN IN 2023

**66 Million**

UNITED PASSENGERS IN 1992

**137 Billion**

UNITED'S AVAILABLE SEAT MILES IN 1992

**165 Million**

UNITED PASSENGERS IN 2023

**291 Billion**

UNITED'S AVAILABLE SEAT MILES 2023—MAKING IT THE WORLD'S LARGEST AIRLINE BY AVAILABLE SEAT MILES

**2,000**

DAILY DOMESTIC UNITED FLIGHTS IN 1995

**3,500**

DAILY DOMESTIC UNITED FLIGHTS IN 2023

**67**

COUNTRIES SERVED BY UNITED IN 2024

**33**

COUNTRIES SERVED BY UNITED IN 1992



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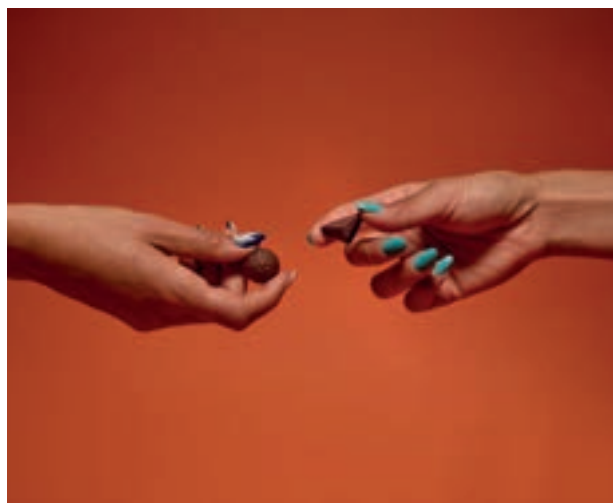
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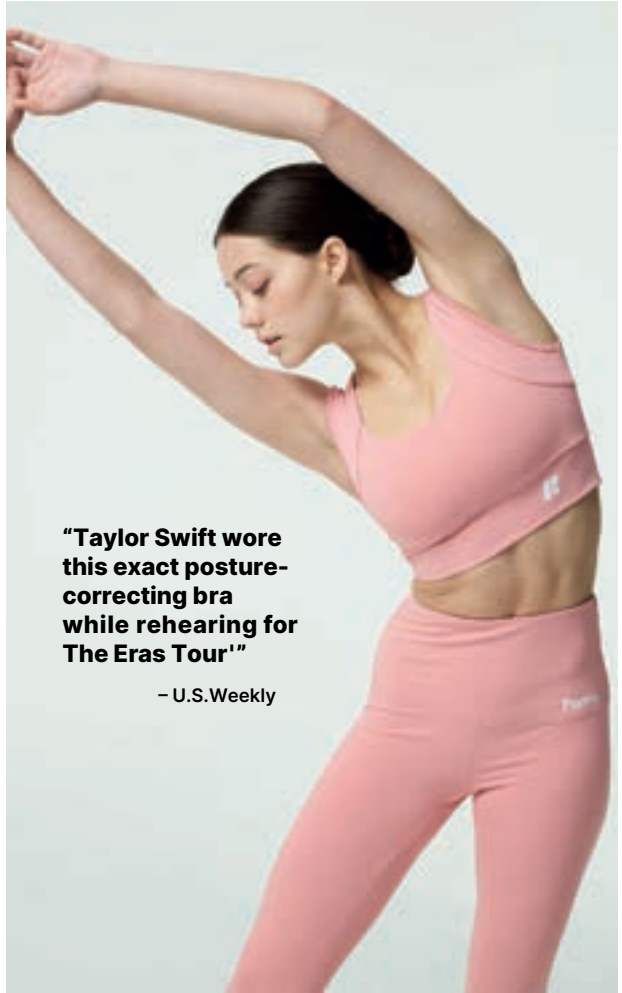
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## COME FIND *Your* VIRGINIA



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From the very beginning at the birthplace of America, Jamestowne, to the halls of today's events, Virginia offers the full spectrum of U.S. history. Discover early America at the world's largest living history museum, Colonial Williamsburg. Learn about our great leaders at estates of former U.S. presidents, including the first, George Washington. Visit the hallowed grounds of a revolutionary or civil war battlefield, then walk the paths of civil and suffrage rights leaders.



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# The New York Times Crossword

NO. 0506

Puzzle by Malaika Handa

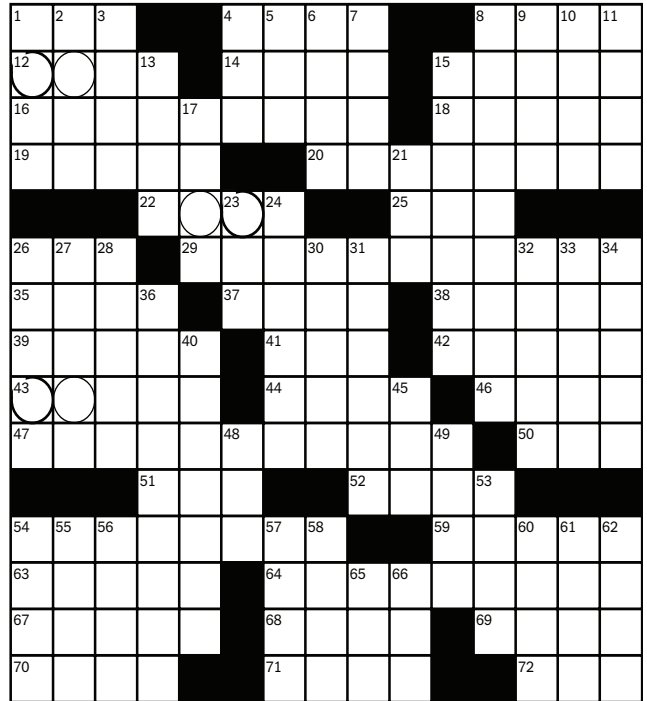
**ACROSS**

- 1** Día de \_\_\_ Muertos (Mexican holiday)
- 4** Uses a "+" sign
- 8** Airplane traveler's selection
- 12** Mischievous little devils
- 14** Group of three
- 15** \_\_\_ asada (burrito filling)
- 16** Pair of ones, in dice
- 18** What causes Bruce Banner to "hulk out"
- 19** \_\_\_-Leste, country in Southeast Asia
- 20** Where a city's skyscrapers are often found
- 22** Edges
- 25** Actress de Armas
- 26** Electric guitar hookup
- 29** Sheet with student names
- 35** Knotted accessories
- 37** Fuzzy fruit
- 38** Nine, in Spanish
- 39** Implied, but never said
- 41** Half of an umlaut
- 42** Locations
- 43** Photograph, e.g.
- 44** Have a little snack
- 46** Ripped
- 47** Sticky breakfast treat
- 50** Pub. that acquired Wordle in 2022
- 51** Silent \_\_\_ mouse
- 52** "Sounds good!"
- 54** Table of \_\_\_ (book section)
- 59** Taco topping
- 63** Regarding
- 64** "Things could not be going better for me!" ... or a hint to the placement of the circled letters
- 67** Flies high
- 68** Zero
- 69** Sonnet writer
- 70** [giggle]
- 71** Got up there in years
- 72** Number that shares a key with "@"

**DOWN**

- 1** Something with bullet points or check boxes
- 2** Prefix with present or potent

- 3** Many a phone call from a mysterious number
- 4** Had food
- 5** Having toweled off
- 6** Ran out of battery
- 7** Nothing special
- 8** Red-and-white holiday costume
- 9** "Therefore ..."
- 10** Start \_\_\_ (begin again)
- 11** Beach bird
- 13** Hershey candy bar made with toffee
- 15** Pirate ship weapons
- 17** Name that's an anagram of RICE
- 21** It's good for "absolutely nothing," per a 1970 #1 hit
- 23** "Letter From Birmingham Jail" writer, for short
- 24** Refused
- 26** Spooky part of a house, perhaps
- 27** Florida city with a South Beach neighborhood
- 28** Pie nut
- 30** Faint from emotion
- 31** Doesn't intervene
- 32** Wyoming's Grand \_\_\_ National Park
- 33** Each
- 34** Put back to zero
- 36** John Hancock
- 40** Groups of cups and saucers
- 45** Maroon or indigo
- 48** "\_\_\_! I Feel Like a Woman!" (Shania Twain song)



- 49** Org. with the Hubble telescope
- 53** Instrument for an angel
- 54** A.T.M. withdrawal
- 55** Orchestra woodwind
- 56** Biblical figure with an ark
- 57** "Bob's Burgers" daughter
- 58** Air pollution
- 60** Pirate's booty
- 61** Whole bunch
- 62** Palo \_\_\_, Calif.
- 65** Number that shares a key with "!"
- 66** Homer Simpson's neighbor

For answers to the crossword puzzle, turn to page 136

Answers to the Sudoku puzzles from page 136

ANSWER TO SUDOKU 1

1	6	2	5	9	7	8	4	3
5	3	8	2	6	4	9	1	7
4	7	9	3	8	1	6	2	5
8	1	5	9	2	3	4	7	6
7	9	3	4	5	6	1	8	2
2	4	6	1	7	8	5	3	9
9	2	4	7	1	5	3	6	8
3	8	7	6	4	9	2	5	1
6	5	1	8	3	2	7	9	4

ANSWER TO SUDOKU 2

7	9	6	2	3	1	5	4	8
3	8	5	7	6	4	1	9	2
4	2	1	9	8	5	3	7	6
1	3	9	6	4	2	7	8	5
6	7	8	5	9	3	4	2	1
2	5	4	1	7	8	9	6	3
5	1	7	8	2	9	6	3	4
8	6	3	4	1	7	2	5	9
9	4	2	3	5	6	8	1	7

ANSWER TO SUDOKU 3

2	5	9	3	8	4	7	1	6
3	7	4	5	6	1	9	2	8
8	1	6	9	2	7	3	5	4
5	2	1	8	7	3	4	6	9
6	4	7	2	5	9	1	8	3
9	3	8	4	1	6	5	7	2
4	8	2	1	9	5	6	3	7
7	9	5	6	3	8	2	4	1
1	6	3	7	4	2	8	9	5

Puzzle by Malaika Handa; edited by Joel Fagliano; © 2024 The New York Times



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# Sudoku

By PennyDell Puzzles

## SUDOKU 1 (EASY)

			5					3
	3		2	6		9		
4	7	9		8				5
8		5			3	4		6
		3	4		6	1		
2		6	1			5		9
9				1		3	6	8
		7		4	9		5	
6					2			

## SUDOKU 2 (MEDIUM)

7		6	2			5		
	8	5	7					2
			9				7	6
1				4		7	8	
	7			9			2	
	5	4		7				3
5	1				9			
8					7	2	5	
		2			6	8		7

## SUDOKU 3 (HARD)

		9		8				6
		4			1			
8			9			3	5	
	2						6	9
			2	5	9			
9	3						7	
	8	2			5			7
			6			2		
1				4		8		

For answers to the Sudoku puzzles, turn to page 134; below: the answers to the crossword from page 134

L	O	S		A	D	D	S		S	E	A	T						
I	M	P	S		T	R	I	O		C	A	R	N	E				
S	N	A	K	E	E	Y	E	S		A	N	G	E	R				
T	I	M	O	R					D	O	W	N	T	O	W	N		
			R	I	M	S			A	N	A							
A	M	P		C	L	A	S	S	R	O	S	T	E	R				
T	I	E	S		K	I	W	I		N	U	E	V	E				
T	A	C	I	T					D	O	T		S	I	T	E	S	
I	M	A	G	E					N	O	S	H		T	O	R	E	
C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	B	U	N				N	Y	T		
				A	S	A				Y	E	A	H					
C	O	N	T	E	N	T	S				S	A	L	S	A			
A	B	O	U	T					I	M	O	N	A	R	O	L	L	
S	O	A	R	S					N	O	N	E			P	O	E	T
H	E	H	E						A	G	E	D			T	W	O	

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9:00 pm

10:00 pm

11:00 pm

12:00  
MON.

12:00  
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1:00 am

Arctic Ocean

MIDNIGHT

# Maps

## International destinations

*Route lines do not reflect actual flight path*

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- - - United seasonal service

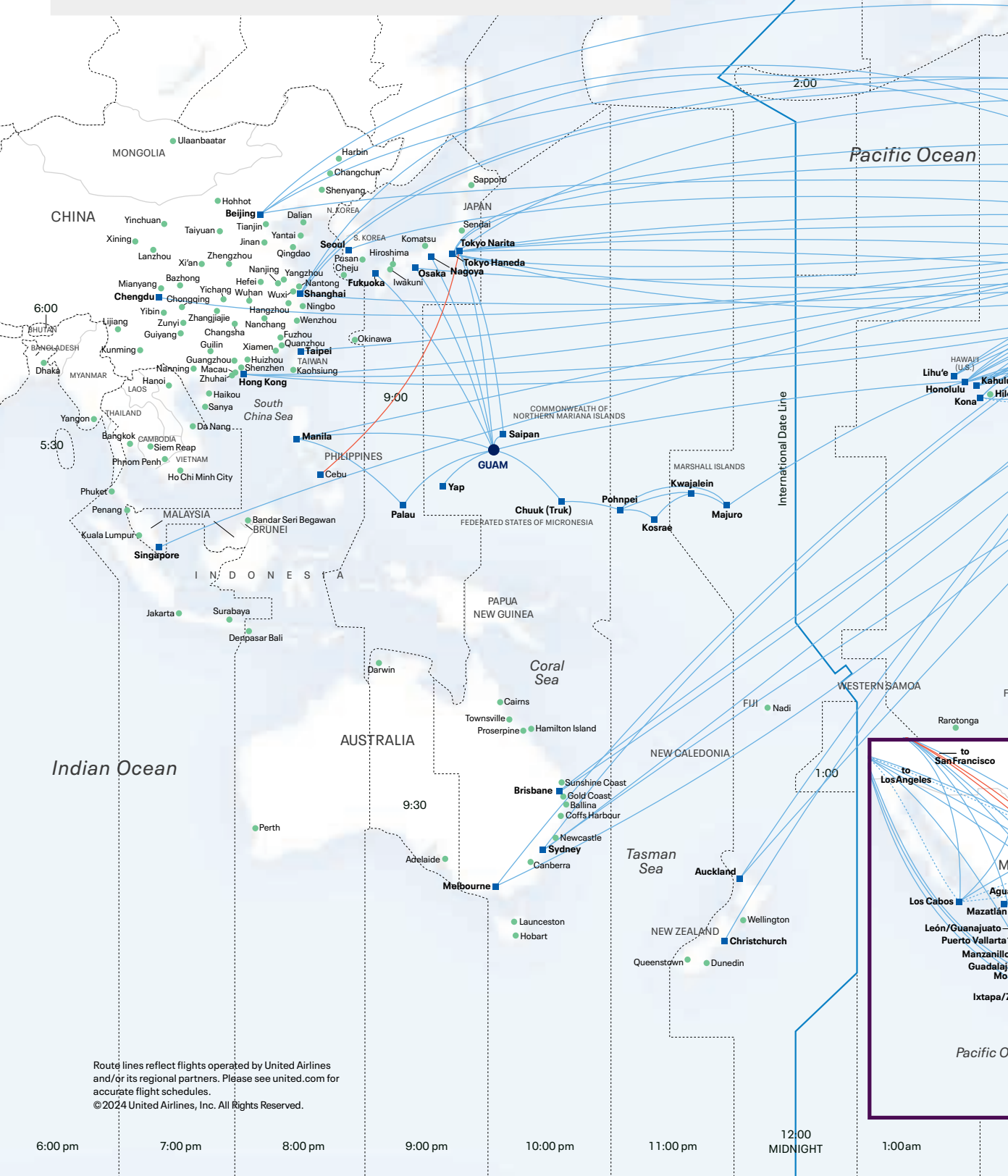
— United future service

● United hub

■ Destinations served

● Destinations served by select airline partners

- - - Time zone boundary



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6:00 pm

7:00 pm

8:00 pm

9:00 pm

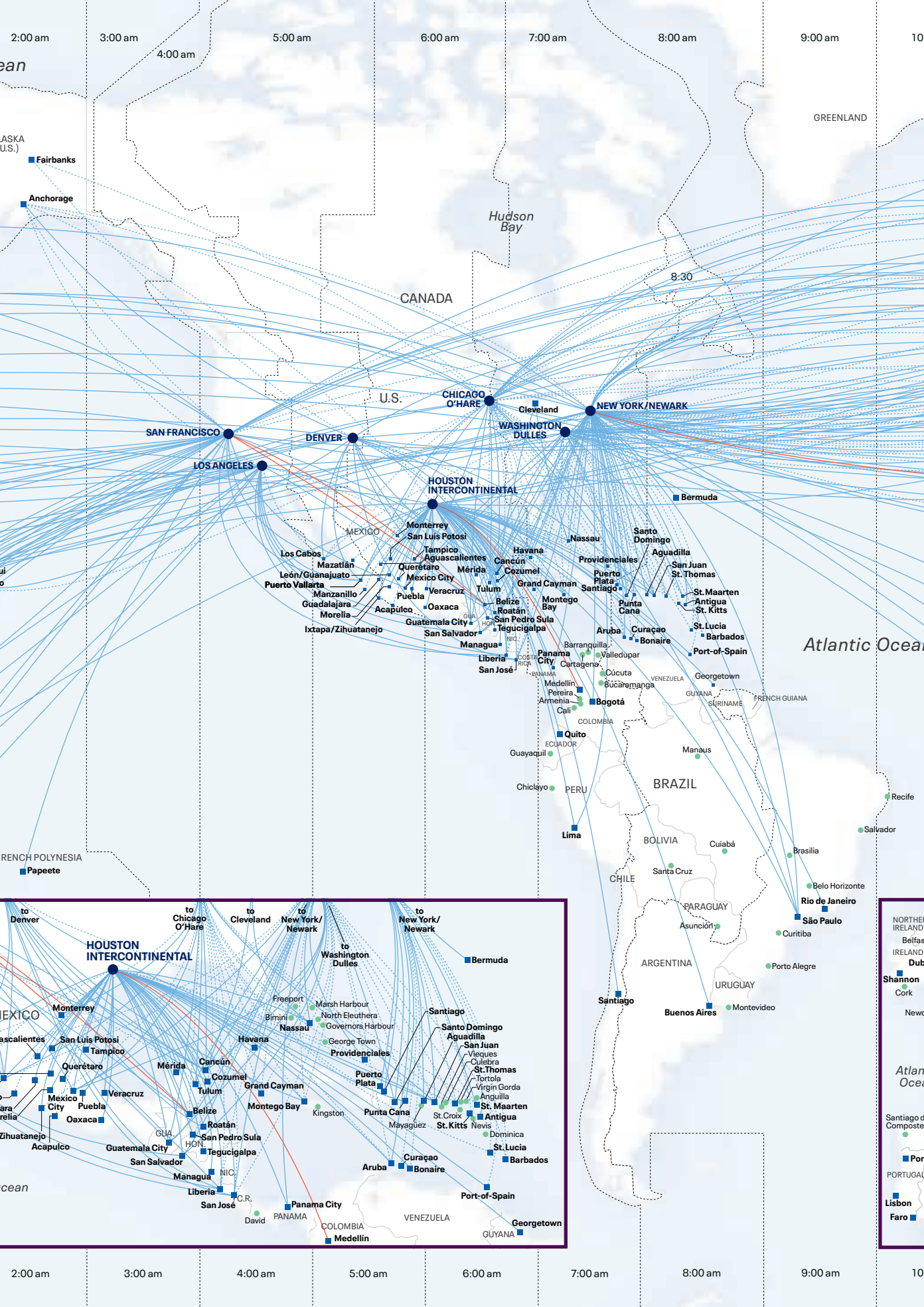
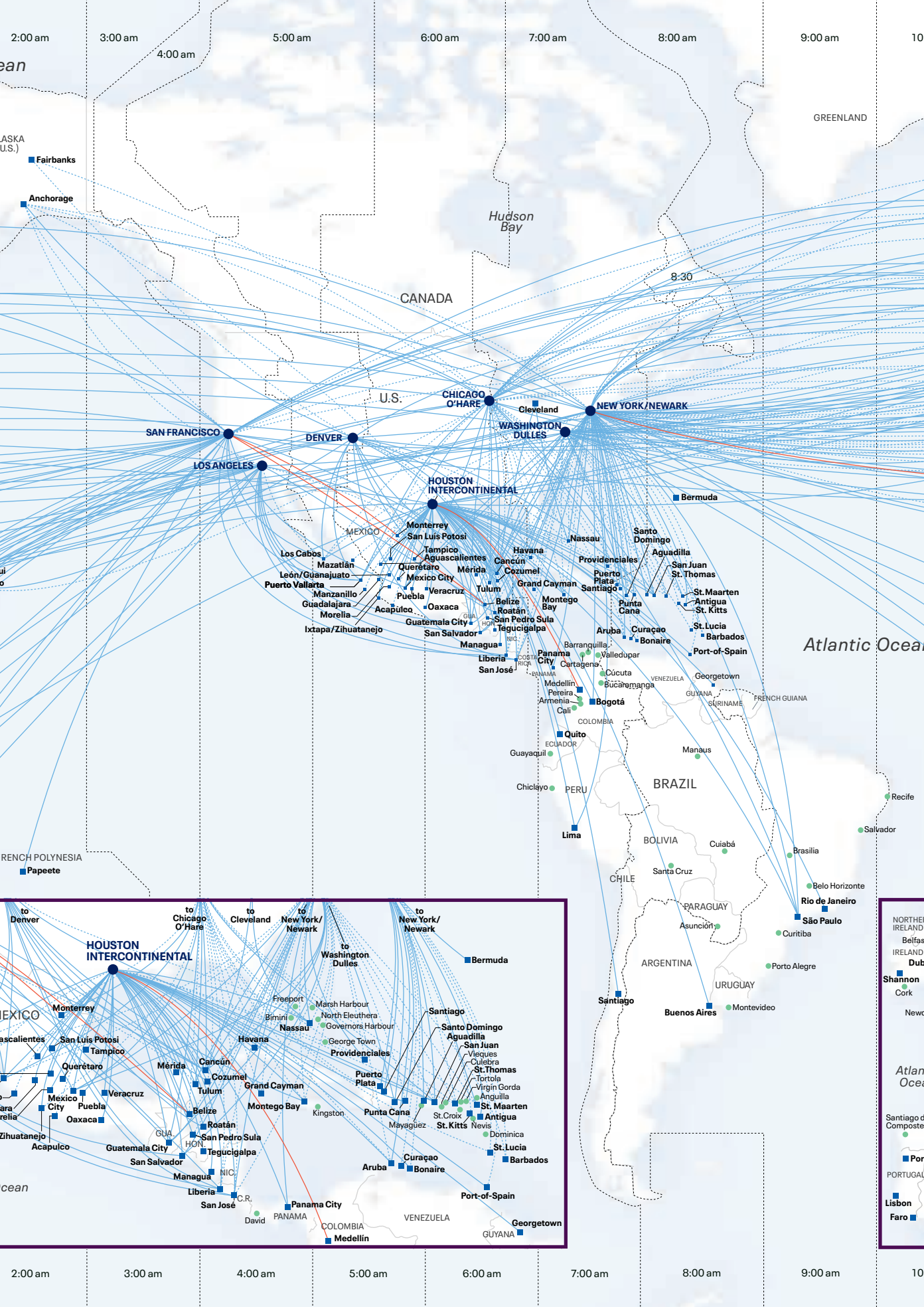
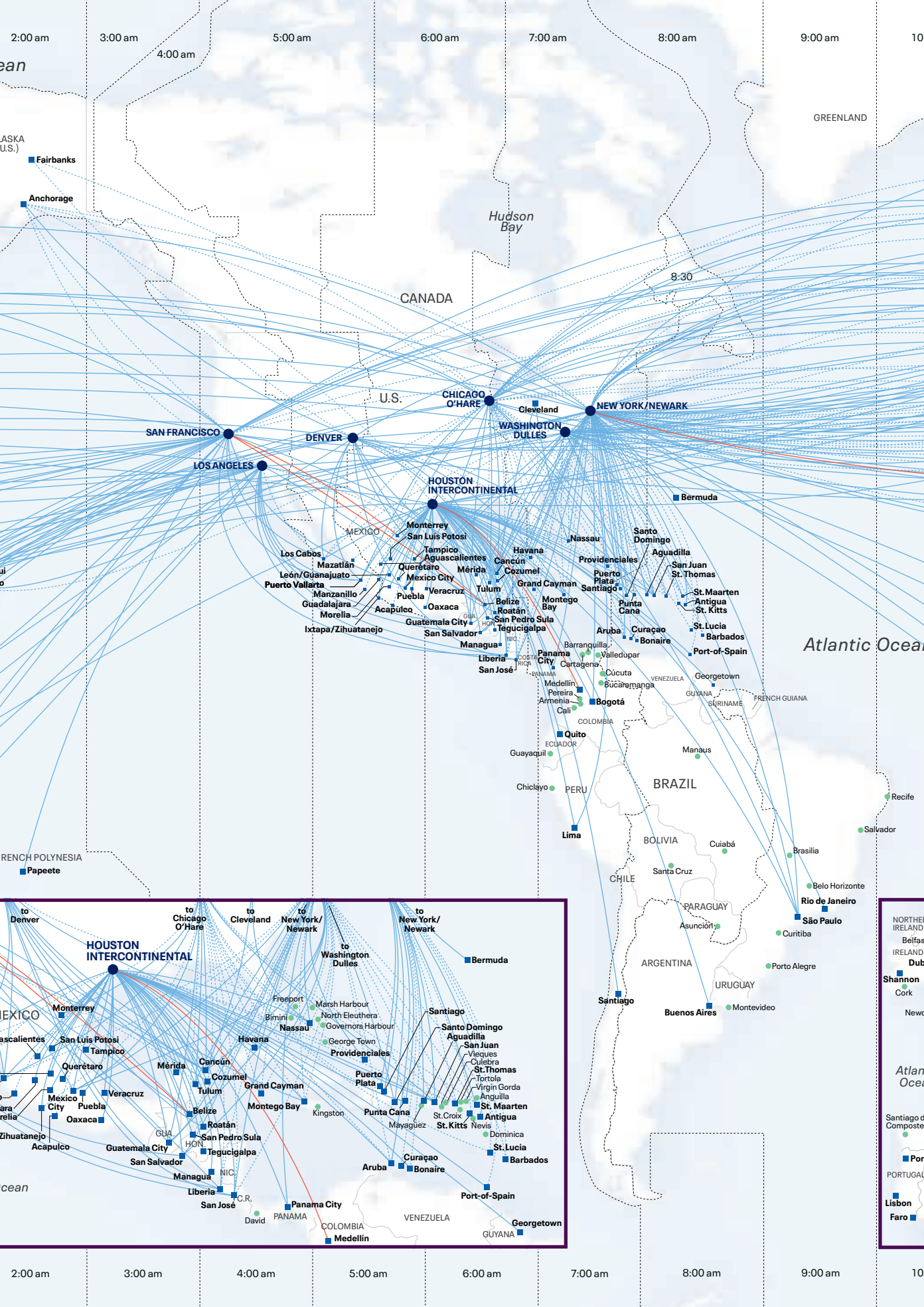
10:00 pm

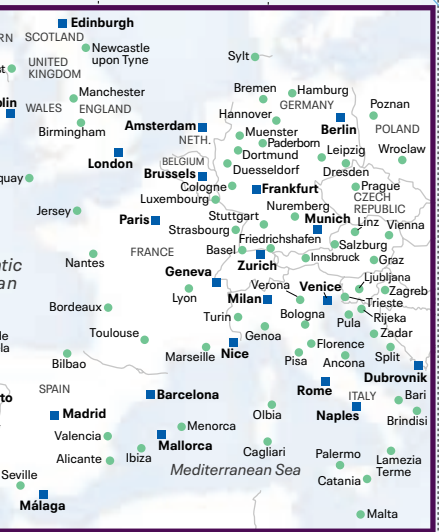
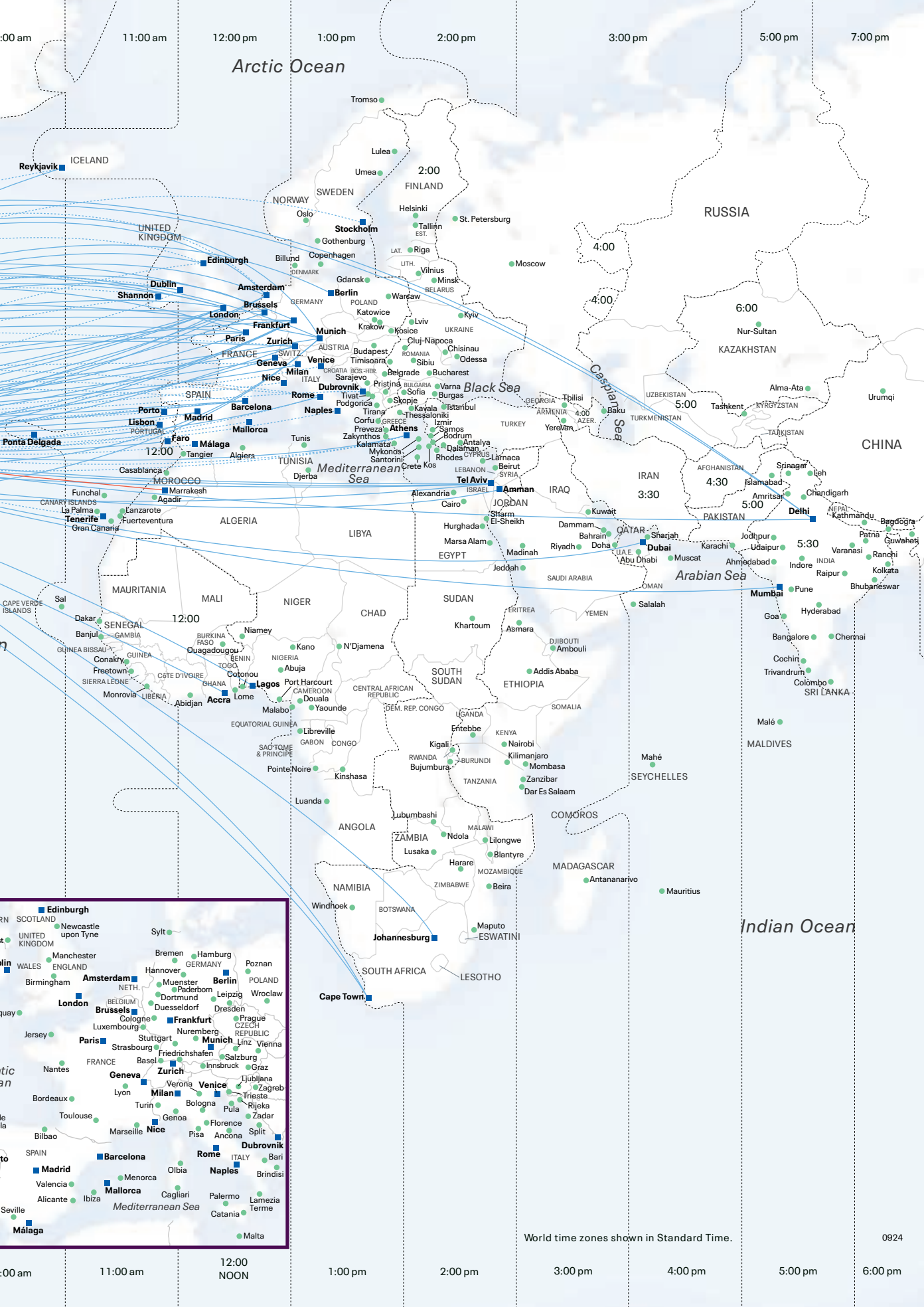
11:00 pm

12:00  
MIDNIGHT

1:00 am

Pacific O





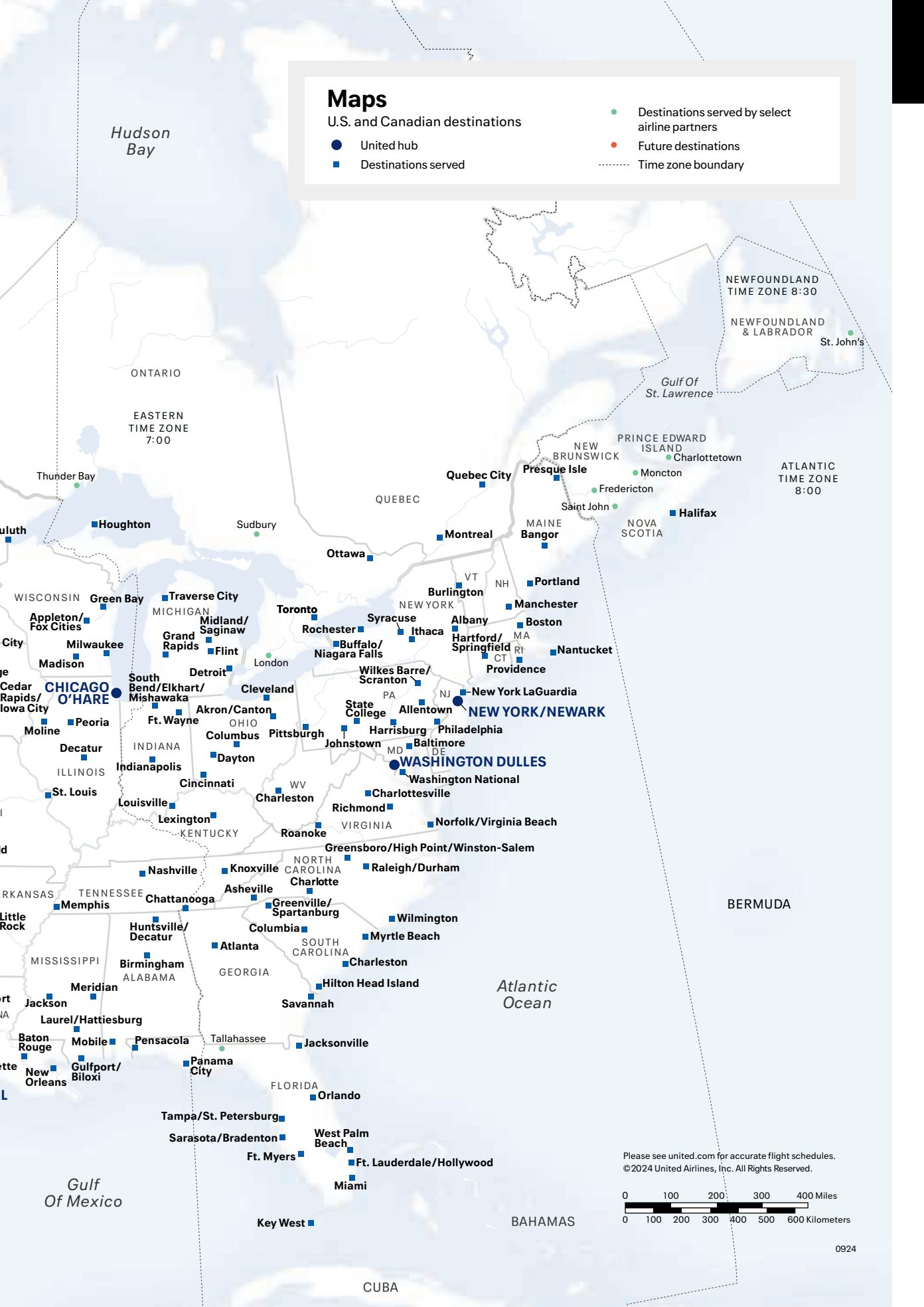


# Maps

U.S. and Canadian destinations

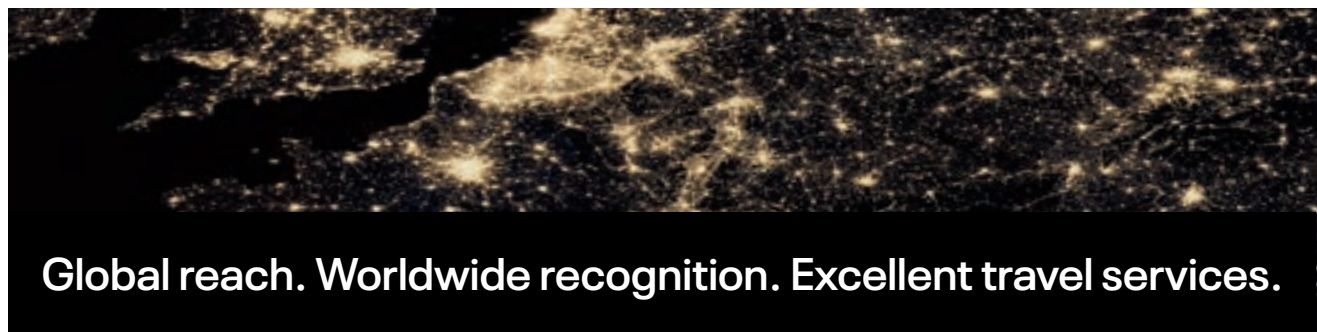
- United hub
- Destinations served

- Destinations served by select airline partners
- Future destinations
- Time zone boundary



Please see [united.com](http://united.com) for accurate flight schedules.  
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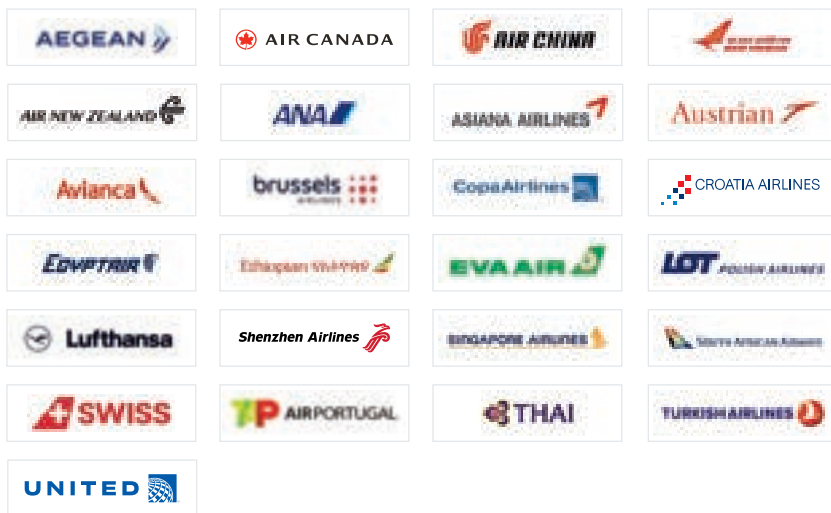


## Global reach. Worldwide recognition. Excellent travel services.

As part of the world's largest global airline alliance, United and Star Alliance member airlines provide seamless air travel around the world. Customers have access to a comprehensive global network, frequent-flyer travel benefits, and worldwide lounge access on all Star Alliance member airlines.

### The Star Alliance network

Established in 1997 as the first truly global airline alliance to offer customers a worldwide travel network, Star Alliance aims to provide customers with a seamless travel experience across multiple airlines. The Star Alliance lounge network is the largest in the world, with more than 1,000 locations worldwide.



### Earn miles and status faster

With the largest airline alliance, you can earn MileagePlus award miles almost anywhere in the world you fly. Miles can be earned on most fares on almost any Star Alliance flight and can be credited to your account. Plus, Premier® qualifying points and Premier qualifying flights will count toward Premier status.

### Earn recognition around the world

The more that you fly with United and the Star Alliance airlines, the higher your status can be. MileagePlus Premier status is recognized across the alliance as either Star Alliance Silver or Star Alliance Gold, with travel benefits worldwide. Go to [united.com/staralliance](http://united.com/staralliance) for the Star Alliance Silver and Gold status benefits you can receive.

### Award travel is now easier

With Star Alliance Awards, you can use your MileagePlus award miles for award travel on any Star Alliance carrier worldwide. Or, use them for Star Alliance Upgrade Awards and upgrade to a premium cabin for maximum comfort.

### Star Alliance connecting partners

Connecting Partner carriers are affiliated with Star Alliance. When traveling on a Star Alliance itinerary that includes a connecting flight with a Connecting Partner, customers can enjoy comforts such as being checked through to their final destination. Gold status members will be offered a tailored set of privileges. Intermodal Partners like Deutsche Bahn provide travelers even greater access and seamless connections by rail.



### Other airline partners

You can earn and/or redeem award miles on many of our other airline partners. See [united.com/airlinepartners](http://united.com/airlinepartners) for specific information about each of our other airline partners.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aer Lingus        | Eurowings         |
| Air Dolomiti      | Flydubai          |
| Airlink           | Hawaiian Airlines |
| Azul              | JSX               |
| Cape Air          | Olympic Air       |
| Discover Airlines | Silver Airways    |
| Edelweiss         | Virgin Australia  |
| Emirates          | Vistara           |



# Bistro

ON BOARD

Globally  
Inspired  
Selection



SEPTEMBER 2024

# Snack Shop

## Snackboxes



### Tapas

Traditional hummus, pita chips, asiago cheese spread, La Panzanella® crackers, cracked black pepper almonds, pitted snack olives, Biscoff® cookies

VEGETARIAN

\$10 or 1180 miles



### Takeoff

Beef salami, Mediterranean apricots, gouda cheese spread, fig spread, cream crackers, Italian breadsticks, hickory smoked almonds, Toblerone®

\$10 or 1180 miles

## Snacks

### Pringles®

Original potato crisps

VEGAN, KOSHER

\$5 or 590 miles



### Haribo® Goldbears

Orange, strawberry, lemon, pineapple and raspberry gummy bears

\$5 or 590 miles



Enjoy **25% back** as a statement credit on purchases of food and beverages when you pay with your United<sup>SM</sup> Explorer Card.



### Recline

Lesser Evil® Himalayan Gold popcorn, Pretzel Pete® honey mustard & onion mini twists, OREO® cookies, Albanese® gummi bears, Fun Size M&M's®

**\$10 or 1180 miles**

*Items depicted may be substituted.*



## Flying just got a whole lot sweeter!

Flying just got a whole lot sweeter! We're thrilled that Milk Bar, known for its playful and innovative desserts, is now available on-board. Get ready to elevate your in-flight snacking experience with treats as whimsical as they are delicious.

Christina Tosi, a James Beard award-winning pastry chef, founded Milk Bar. Tosi's quest to bring out the fun and excitement in every bite combines nostalgic flavors with a modern twist. Milk Bar treats aren't just about satisfying your sweet tooth; they're about sparking joy and bringing people together through the universal love of sweets.

### Mega Omega Trail Mix

Delicious blend of walnuts, almonds, dried mango, dried cranberries and pumpkin seeds to create a perfect healthy snack

**GLUTEN-FREE, KOSHER, ORGANIC, VEGAN & NON-GMO**

**\$6 or 710 miles**



### Milk Bar Crunchies

Caramelized, buttery, bite-sized cookies with pops of crispy rice cereal for a satisfying crunch

**\$5 or 590 miles**



Miles, awards and benefits are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program. For details, see [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

#### Flight details

Flights scheduled over 500 miles  
Within the United States, Canada,  
Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Snack time

All day

# Breakfast



## Strawberry and Cream Parfait

Strawberry and cream parfait with layers of creamy Greek yogurt topped with vanilla almond granola

VEGETARIAN

\$9 or 1070 miles



## Mediterranean Egg White Skillet

Scrambled egg whites with rosemary roasted potatoes and sun-dried tomatoes

VEGETARIAN, SERVED WARM

\$10 or 1180 miles



## Waffle, Egg, Sausage Sandwich

Waffle sandwich with apple gouda chicken sausage, fried egg, and gouda cheese

SERVED WARM

\$10 or 1180 miles

## Flight details

Flights scheduled over 1,190 miles

Within the United States, including to/from Hawaii (excluding long-haul Hawaii routes with complimentary meal service in Economy class)

## Breakfast time

Departure time from 5:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.

*All menu selections may vary by flight. We apologize if your preferred choice is not available. Please review the packaging labels for full product descriptions and listings of ingredients and allergens. Products may contain food allergens such as milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, soybeans and sesame.*

*We accept credit/debit cards via contactless payment only. To view and print your receipts from purchases made on mainline United-operated flights, visit [united.com/inflightreceipts](https://united.com/inflightreceipts)*

# Lunch & dinner



## Fresh Cheese & Fruit Tray

Sharp cheddar cheese, fontina cheese, grand cru cheese, Partners® crackers, red seedless grapes, Bonne Maman® fig preserves, Frango mint chocolate

VEGETARIAN

\$10 or 1180 miles



## Pretzel Beer Cheeseburger

Pretzel bun with pale ale white cheddar beer cheese, beef patty, bacon, and a mild cheddar. *Condiments served upon request — please ask your flight attendant for today's selection*

SERVED WARM

\$11 or 1300 miles



## Italian Sub Sandwich

Ciabatta bread with ham, provolone cheese, salami, giardiniera and basil aioli

SERVED WARM

\$11 or 1300 miles

## Flight details

Flights scheduled over 1,190 miles

Within the United States, including to/from Hawaii (excluding long-haul Hawaii routes with complimentary meal service in Economy class)

## Lunch and dinner times

Departure time from 10:00 a.m. to 8:59 p.m.

*All menu selections may vary by flight. We apologize if your preferred choice is not available. Please review the packaging labels for full product descriptions and listings of ingredients and allergens. Products may contain food allergens such as milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, soybeans and sesame.*

*We accept credit/debit cards via contactless payment only. To view and print your receipts from purchases made on mainline United-operated flights, visit [united.com/inflightreceipts](https://united.com/inflightreceipts)*



# International



## Canada

**BREAKFAST | 5:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.**

### Maple Breakfast Sandwich

Black Forest ham, cheddar cheese and maple butter on a croissant

**SERVED WARM**

**\$10 or 1180 miles**

---

**LUNCH & DINNER | 10:00 a.m. to 8:59 p.m.**

### Hummus Platter

Carrot edamame salad, red pepper hummus and herbed pita wedges

**VEGETARIAN**

**\$11 or 1300 miles**

### Forty Creek Barbecue Burger

Beef patty, white cheddar cheese and Forty Creek whisky barbecue sauce on a pretzel bun. Condiments served upon request.

**SERVED WARM**

**\$11 or 1300 miles**

### Sun-Dried Tomato Chicken Pesto Wrap

Chicken, cheese, lettuce and sun-dried tomato pesto in a tortilla wrap

**\$11 or 1300 miles**

Menu selections may vary by flight. We apologize if your preferred choice is not available. Please review the packaging labels for full product descriptions and listings of ingredients and allergens. Products may contain food allergens such as crustacean shellfish, eggs, fish, gluten, milk, mustard, sesame, soybeans, tree nuts or wheat.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

**BREAKFAST | 5:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.**

### Maple Breakfast Sandwich

Black Forest ham, cheddar cheese and maple butter on a croissant

**SERVED WARM**

**\$10 or 1180 miles**

---

**LUNCH & DINNER | 10:00 a.m. to 8:59 p.m.**

### Turkey and Mozzarella Sandwich

Smoked turkey, mozzarella cheese and cream cheese spread on a ciabatta baguette

**SERVED WARM**

**\$11 or 1300 miles**

### Barbecue Chicken Sandwich

Grilled barbecue chicken, mozzarella cheese and ranch dressing on a ciabatta baguette

**SERVED WARM**

**\$11 or 1300 miles**

## Canada flight details

Select flights over 1,190 miles from Canada to the United States

## Latin America and the Caribbean flight details

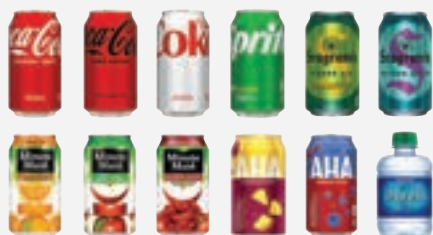
Select flights over 1,190 miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States (excluding long-haul routes with complimentary meal service in Economy class).

# Beverages



## Complimentary

Beverages available on all flights



### Sparkling

Coca-Cola®, Coca-Cola® Zero Sugar, Diet Coke® and Sprite®

Seagram's®: Ginger Ale, Seltzer Water, Tonic Water

AHA® Sparkling Water:  
Pineapple + Passionfruit,  
Blueberry + Pomegranate


### Juice

Minute Maid®: Orange Juice,  
Apple Juice, Cranberry Cocktail Juice

Mott's® Tomato Juice

Mr & Mrs T® Bloody Mary Mix

### Other

 illy® dark roast coffee:  
regular, decaffeinated

Hot tea

DASANI® Bottled Water

## Available for Purchase

In United Economy® on U.S., Canada, Latin America  
and Caribbean flights

### Beer

Free on all international flights

Michelob ULTRA® \$8 or 950 miles

Stella Artois® \$9 or 1070 miles

Bell's® Two Hearted® IPA  
\$9 or 1070 miles

White Claw® Hard Seltzer  
Black Cherry \$9 or 1070 miles

Kona Big Wave Golden Ale\*  
\$8 or 950 miles

\*Available only on mainline United  
flights between the continental  
United States and Hawaii



### illy® Cold Brew

\$6 or 710 miles



### Wine

Complimentary red, white  
and sparkling brut available  
on international flights

\$10 or 1180 miles

Red Wine (187mL)

White Wine (187mL)

Sparkling Brut (187mL)

### Liquor

\$10 or 1180 miles

Tito's® Handmade Vodka

Bombay Sapphire® Gin

Bacardi® Rum

Corazón® Blanco Tequila

Buffalo Trace® Bourbon

Jack Daniel's® Whiskey

Glenfarclas® Scotch

Baileys® Irish Cream Liqueur

Menu selections may vary by  
flight. Alcohol may be served  
only to customers 21 and older.

# Contactless pay, your way

## How to purchase snacks & drinks on your flight.



Enjoy 25% back as a statement credit on purchases of food and beverages on board United and United Express®-operated flights when you pay with your United<sup>SM</sup> Explorer Card.\*

Not a cardmember? Please see your seatback pocket for more information about the United Explorer Card or ask a flight attendant for an application.

\*For details, visit [unitedexplorercard.com/inflight](http://unitedexplorercard.com/inflight). Credit cards issued by Chase Bank USA, N.A.



United Airlines now accepts  
PayPal™ on board

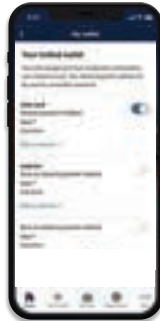
It's fast, easy and secure, with no Wi-Fi connection needed. Download the app and set your payment preference now.

## MILEAGEPLUS MEMBERS

### OPTION 1

Store a card in your MP account

- Ensure your MP number is attached to your reservation
- Go to United Wallet in the app
- Save your primary payment



### OPTION 2

Pay with miles on board

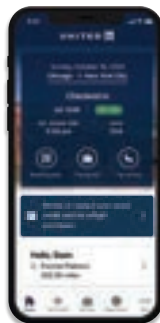
- Ask the flight attendant to use your miles balance to complete the transaction

### OPTION 3

Pay with a United Wallet QR code

- Connect to United Wi-Fi
- Go to United Wallet in the app
- Select your payment type
- Generate QR code for flight attendant.

*Screenshots of United wallet QR codes will not work*

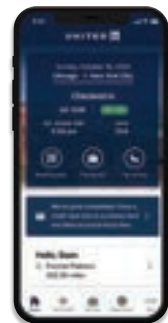
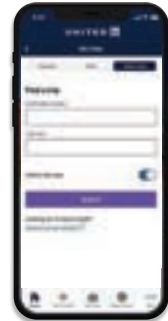


## NON-MEMBERS

Please follow the instructions below so you can buy snacks and drinks while in the air:

Store a card in your app

- Download the latest United app version
- Add your reservation to "My United" and tap on the Trips icon
- On the home screen below the box with details about your trip, select the "We've gone contactless!" banner
- Fill out your credit card information and continue until you select "Save"
- If for some reason you do not see the banner, simply tap on "Trip Options" and scroll down until you see the Inflight Purchases banner — you can add a card by tapping there!



For anyone who does not have the United app and would like to purchase food or beverages on board, you can now add a contactless payment option to your trip by connecting to United Wi-Fi and visiting [united.com/inflightpayment](http://united.com/inflightpayment) to enter your confirmation number and credit card details. This card will only be saved for your current trip.



Hemispheres®

# Entertainment



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Movies & TV | Audio | Personal device entertainment

Featured in September

## The Fall Guy

### What to watch

*A Quiet Place: Day One, Civil War, Back to Black, Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga, The Idea of You, Bad Boys: Ride or Die, LaRoy, Texas, Robot Dreams, The Garfield Movie, House of the Dragon*



Enjoy movies and shows on your seatback displays or personal devices.

Most films have been edited for airline use. However, customer discretion is still advised. Customers are also welcome to view their own content as long as they are able to show that the programming has an MPAA rating of "R" or less. Please be mindful of those around you and try to make sure that any children seated near you aren't able to see scenes with violence or adult themes.

As a courtesy to other travelers, please use headphones when listening to any device.

Digital media loading occurs between the 25th of one month and the 5th of the following month, so please understand if your flight features a different lineup than what's shown in these pages.

# Enjoy free movies and TV shows



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## Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga [T]

148 min. R



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## The Idea of You [T]

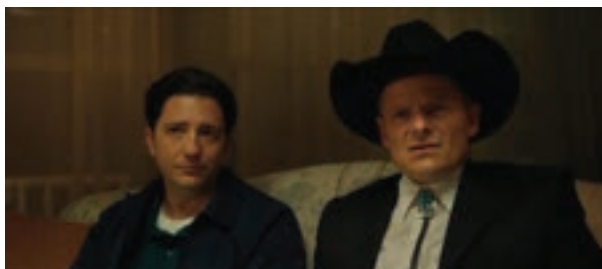
115 min. R



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## Bad Boys: Ride or Die [T]

115 min. R



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## LaRoy, Texas [T]

112 min. R



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## Civil War [T]

109 min. R



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## A Quiet Place: Day One

100 min. PG-13

### More movies

IF

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

Challengers

Hit Man

Robot Dreams



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**Conan O'Brien Must Go**  
39 min. TV-MA



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**House of the Dragon**  
59 min. TV-MA



© 2024 Vancou SIT Productions BC Inc.  
/ Vancou SIT ON Inc.

**Wild Cards**  
45 min. TV-14



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**For Love & Life: No Ordinary Campaign**  
83 min. TV-14

### More TV shows

- Mammals
- Young Sheldon
- Curb Your Enthusiasm
- It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia
- Vanderpump Rules



# Honor Hispanic Heritage



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and Starz Encore Group, LLC



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Celebrate Latino voices with our curated collection of inflight content

# Seatback entertainment



© 2024 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

**IF**

94 min. PG-13



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**Instant Family**

119 min. PG-13



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**Dora and the Lost City of Gold**

102 min. PG-13



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**Bumblebee**

114 min. PG-13



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**Dora**

96 min. G



© 2024 CBS Studios International Inc. All Rights Reserved.

**Elsbeth**

86 min. TV-14

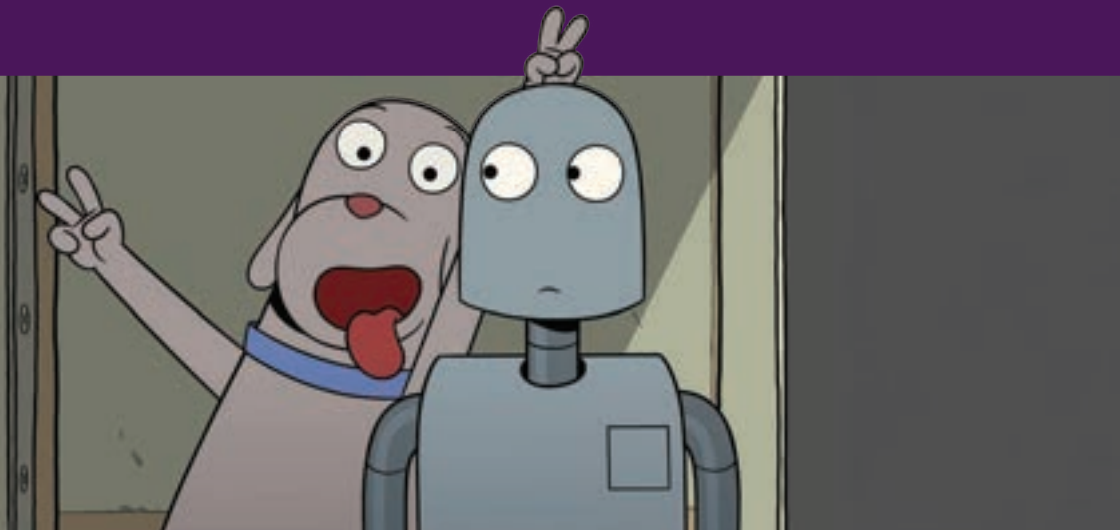


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**American Pickers**

90 min. TV-PG

© Mothers' Instinct Films S.C. © 2025 Arcadia Motion Pictures SL/Loliz Films A/E/Noodles Production SARL Les Films du Worso SARL S 2023.



## Robot Dreams

102 min. N/R

### DIRECTV channel lineup

AWEALTHOFENTERTAINMENT.....	387	ESPNNEWS.....	207	NHL NETWORK.....	215
A&E.....	265	ESPNU.....	208	NICK JR.....	301
ABC (WABC).....	9533	FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION.....	323	NICKELODEON EAST.....	299
ACC NETWORK.....	612	FOOD NETWORK.....	231	NICKTOONS.....	302
AMC NETWORK.....	254	FOX (WNYW).....	9534	OPRAH WINFREY NETWORK.....	279
AMERICAN HEROES CHANNEL.....	287	FOX BUSINESS NETWORK.....	359	OUTDOOR NETWORK.....	606
ANIMAL PLANET.....	282	FOX NEWS CHANNEL.....	360	OVATION.....	274
BBC AMERICA.....	264	FOX SPORTS 1.....	219	OXYGEN.....	251
BET.....	329	FOX SPORTS 2.....	618	PARAMOUNT NETWORK.....	241
BET HER.....	330	FREEFORM.....	311	POP.....	273
BLOOMBERG TV.....	353	FX.....	248	QVC.....	317
BOOMERANG.....	298	FX MOVIE.....	258	QVC2.....	315
BRAVO.....	237	FXX.....	259	SCIENCE.....	284
BTN.....	610	FYI.....	266	SEC NETWORK.....	611
CARTOON NETWORK.....	296	GALAVISION.....	404	SPORTSMAN CHANNEL.....	605
CBS (WCBS).....	9531	HALLMARK.....	312	SUNDANCE TV.....	239
CBSSPORTS NETWORK.....	221	HEADLINE NEWS.....	204	SYFY.....	244
CELEBRITY SHOPPING NETWORK.....	223	HGTV.....	229	TBSSUPERSTATION.....	247
CMT.....	327	HISTORY.....	269	TEENNICK.....	303
CNBC.....	355	IFC.....	333	THE GOLF CHANNEL.....	218
CNN.....	202	INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY.....	285	THE TENNIS CHANNEL.....	217
COMEDY CENTRAL.....	249	LIFETIME.....	252	THE TRAVEL CHANNEL.....	277
COOKING CHANNEL.....	232	LIFETIME MOVIE NETWORK.....	253	THE WEATHER CHANNEL.....	362
CSPAN.....	350	MAGNOLIA NETWORK.....	230	TLC.....	280
CSPAN 2.....	351	MLB NETWORK.....	213	TNT.....	245
DESTINATION AMERICA.....	286	MSNBC.....	356	TRUTV.....	246
DISCOVERY.....	278	MTV.....	331	TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES.....	256
DISCOVERY FAMILY CHANNEL.....	294	MTV CLASSIC.....	336	TV LAND.....	304
DISNEY.....	290	MTV2.....	332	UNIVISION EAST.....	402
DISNEY JUNIOR.....	289	NAT GEO WILD.....	283	UPTV.....	338
DISNEY XD.....	292	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.....	276	USA NETWORK.....	242
E!.....	236	NBA TV.....	216	VH1.....	335
ESPN.....	206	NBC (WNBC).....	9532	VICELAND.....	271
ESPN2.....	209	NEWSNATION.....	307	WETV.....	260
		NFL NETWORK.....	212	WGN.....	307

# Seatback entertainment



## 737 Guam/Micronesia entertainment

CH. CHANNEL INFORMATION	
1	Information Channel/Instructions
2	A Quiet Place: Day One [EN] [JPD]
3	Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes [EN] [JPD]
4	Crazy Rich Asians [EN] [JPD]
5	Seven Days War [JPD][ENG-ST]
6	Totto-Chan The Movie: The Little Girl at the Window [JPD][ENG-ST]
7	Deadman [KOR][ENG-ST]
8	Love Reset [KOR][ENG-ST]
9	Locksmith, The [CAN][ENG-ST]

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Visit [unitedprivatescreening.com](https://unitedprivatescreening.com) to learn more.

### Rest and restore

Our latest seatback entertainment collection offers breathing exercises, meditations and seated stretches designed to help you stay balanced during your travel day. Find it in the main menu under "Wellness."

**Complimentary earbuds are available on select flights**

Please ask a flight attendant for more information.

**COLDPLAY**  
June 26, 2000



amsterdam sessions

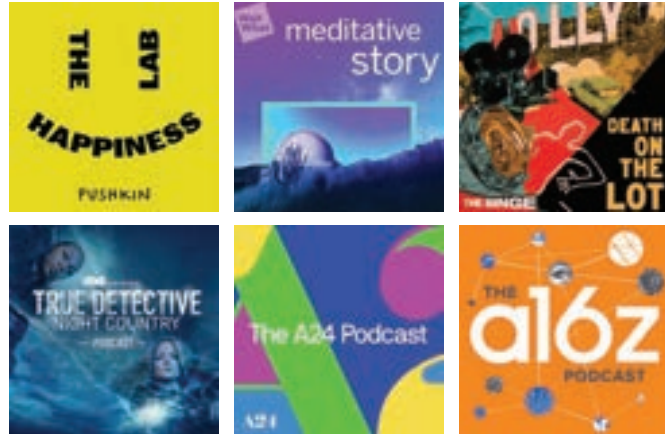
## Audio Playlists

Tune in and turn up with this month's collection of curated audio playlists and artist spotlights.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| '00s               | House            |
| '80s               | K-Pop            |
| '90s               | Kids             |
| Rock & Alternative | Musica Latina    |
| Chill              | Sounds of Summer |
| Classic Hits       | Soundtracks      |
| Classical          | Today's Country  |
| Day At The Beach   | Today's Hits     |
| Hip Hop            |                  |

## Enjoy our collection of top podcasts

Feed your curiosity with our collection of podcasts that explore topics including technology, culture, music, comedy and more.



## Concerts & Live Events

### Concerts



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### Stand-up Comedy



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### Special pricing for United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup>

MileagePlus<sup>®</sup> members: \$8  
Non-members: \$10

Members can also purchase Wi-Fi access with miles. The prices above apply to domestic and short-haul international flights only. Pricing varies on long-haul international flights.



### Free inflight messaging

iMessage, WhatsApp, Messages by Google and more.

Free messaging plan does not support photo or video messages. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and video or audio conferencing are not supported on inflight Wi-Fi.

## How to connect to inflight Wi-Fi



Using your web browser (laptop, tablet or smartphone):

- 1 Enable airplane mode and then turn on Wi-Fi
- 2 Connect to the "Unitedwifi.com" network
- 3 Open your web browser\* and go to [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com)
- 4 Enjoy Wi-Fi and entertainment

\* Use Safari on Apple devices or Google Chrome on Android devices for best results.

Using the United app (tablet or smartphone):

- 1 Enable airplane mode and then turn on Wi-Fi
- 2 Connect to the "Unitedwifi.com" network
- 3 Open up the app and select "Wi-Fi and Entertainment"<sup>\*\*</sup>
- 4 Enjoy Wi-Fi and entertainment

<sup>\*\*</sup> Wi-Fi and Entertainment can be found within the menu in the top left on Android devices, and within the "More" menu in the bottom right tab on Apple devices.

## Free Wi-Fi for T-Mobile customers

Eligible T-Mobile customers get free inflight Wi-Fi on all United flights equipped with Wi-Fi.

Visit [www.unitedwifi.com](http://www.unitedwifi.com) or use the United app to activate your session. Only available on mobile devices.



United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup>

### Connect via QR code

Connect to "Unitedwifi.com" then scan this QR code to visit the United Wi-Fi home page.



## United Explorer Card

Enjoy 25% back as a statement credit when you purchase a United Wi-Fi plan on board with your United<sup>SM</sup> Explorer Card.



**Not an Explorer Cardmember?** Please see your seatback pocket for more information about the United Explorer Card, ask a flight attendant for an application or visit [UnitedExplorerCard.com/inflight](http://UnitedExplorerCard.com/inflight)

### HELPFUL TIPS

- United is committed to offering you quality inflight Wi-Fi. If your expectations were not met, submit a refund request at [united.com/refunds](http://united.com/refunds)
- For the best experience, disable any active VPNs on your device before connecting to United Wi-Fi.

### UNITED WI-FI COVERAGE

- On select Boeing 737 and 757-300 aircraft, Wi-Fi service is only available within the continental U.S. (provided by Thales).
- On select 737s, Airbus A319s and Boeing 737 MAX 8/9s, Wi-Fi service is available over North/Central America (provided by Viasat).
- Wi-Fi service may be unavailable on flights to and from Hawaii.



## Deutsch

### So verbinden Sie sich während des Fluges mit Wi-Fi und dem Personal Device Entertainment

Greifen Sie über Ihr persönliches Gerät auf unsere umfangreiche Auswahl an kostenlosen Filmen und Fernsehsendungen zu oder kaufen Sie ein United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> Abo, um während Ihres Fluges mit dem Internet verbunden zu bleiben.

- 1 Flugmodus aktivieren
- 2 Verbinden Sie sich mit dem Netzwerk „UnitedWiFi“
- 3 Öffnen Sie Ihren Webbrowser und gehen Sie zu [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com) – oder öffnen Sie die United-App und wählen Sie „Wi-Fi and entertainment“

### Weitere Informationen zu United Wi-Fi:

- Zu bestimmten Zeiten während des Fluges stehen der Wi-Fi-Service und das Personal Device Entertainment möglicherweise nicht zur Verfügung.
- Mit kostenlosem Inflight-Text-Messaging können Sie über Apps wie iMessage, WhatsApp und Messages by Google während des Fluges Nachrichten senden und empfangen. Nachrichten, die Fotos oder Videos enthalten, werden nicht unterstützt.
- Während Sie mit United Wi-Fi verbunden sind, können Sie kostenlos auf [united.com](http://united.com), die United-App und ausgewählte Partnersseiten zugreifen. Die United-App kann während des Fluges nicht heruntergeladen werden. Bitte stellen Sie daher sicher, dass sie vor dem Abflug heruntergeladen und auf Ihrem Gerät installiert wurde.

## Español

### Cómo conectarse al Wi-Fi a bordo y disfrutar del entretenimiento con dispositivos personales

Acceda a nuestra selección rotativa de películas y programas de televisión gratis desde su dispositivo personal, o compre un plan Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> de United para mantenerse conectado durante su vuelo.

- 1 Active el modo avión
- 2 Conéctese a la red “UnitedWiFi”
- 3 Abra su navegador web y vaya a [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com), o abra la aplicación de United y seleccione “Wi-Fi and entertainment” (Wi-Fi y entretenimiento)

### Información adicional sobre United Wi-Fi:

- Es posible que el servicio de Wi-Fi y el entretenimiento con dispositivos personales no estén disponibles en determinados momentos durante el vuelo.
- El servicio de mensajería de texto gratuito a bordo permite enviar y recibir mensajes a través de aplicaciones como iMessage, WhatsApp y Messages by Google. No se admiten mensajes que contengan fotos o videos.
- Mientras esté conectado a United Wi-Fi, puede acceder a [united.com](http://united.com), a la aplicación de United y a determinados sitios de socios sin cargo. La aplicación de United no se puede descargar en vuelo, así que asegúrese de descargarla e instalarla en su dispositivo antes de la salida.

## Français

### Comment se connecter au Wi-Fi à bord et au système de divertissement personnel

Accédez à notre sélection renouvelée régulièrement de films et de programmes télévisés gratuits depuis votre appareil personnel, ou achetez un abonnement United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> pour rester connecté(e) pendant votre vol.

- 1 Activez le mode Avion
- 2 Connectez-vous au réseau « UnitedWiFi »
- 3 Ouvrez votre navigateur Web et rendez-vous sur [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com), ou ouvrez l'application United et sélectionnez « Wi-Fi et divertissement »

### Informations supplémentaires concernant le service United Wi-Fi :

- Le service Wi-Fi et le système de divertissement personnel peuvent être indisponibles à certains moments pendant votre vol.
- Le service de messagerie gratuit à bord vous permet d'envoyer et de recevoir des messages via des applications telles qu'iMessage, WhatsApp et Messages par Google. Les messages contenant des photos ou des vidéos ne sont pas pris en charge.
- Grâce à la connexion au service Wi-Fi United, vous pouvez accéder gratuitement à [united.com](http://united.com), à l'application United et à certains sites partenaires. L'application United ne peut pas être téléchargée pendant le vol ; pensez donc à la télécharger et à l'installer sur votre appareil avant le départ.

## 한국어

### 기내 Wi-Fi 및 개인 휴대기기 엔터테인먼트 연결 방법

개인 기기에서 다양한 무료 영화 및 TV를 이용하거나 유나이티드 Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> 플랜을 구매해 비행 중 인터넷을 이용할 수 있습니다.

- 1 비행기 모드 활성화
- 2 'UnitedWiFi' 네트워크에 연결합니다.
- 3 웹 브라우저를 열고 [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com)으로 이동하거나 유나이티드 앱을 열고 'Wi-Fi and entertainment'를 선택합니다.

### 유나이티드 Wi-Fi 관련 추가 정보:

- 항공편 이용 중 특정 시간에는 Wi-Fi 서비스 및 개인 휴대기기 엔터테인먼트 이용이 불가합니다.
- 무료 기내 문자 메시지를 통해 iMessage, WhatsApp 및 Messages by Google과 같은 앱에서 메시지를 주고받을 수 있습니다. 사진, 동영상은 포함되지 않습니다.
- 유나이티드 Wi-Fi 연결 중 [united.com](http://united.com), 유나이티드 앱 및 일부 제휴사 사이트에 무료로 액세스할 수 있습니다. 유나이티드 앱은 비행 중에는 다운로드할 수 없습니다. 출발 전 기기에 다운로드하여 설치해 주시기 바랍니다.

## 日本語

### 機内Wi-Fiとパーソナル・デバイス・エンターテイメントへの接続方法

定期的に更新される無料の映画やテレビ番組をお持ちのスマートフォンやタブレットなどのデバイスでお楽しみいただく、機内でインターネットをご利用いただけるUnited Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup>プランをご購入ください。

- 1 機内モードをONにします
- 2 「United Wi-Fi」ネットワークに接続します
- 3 ブラウザから [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com) にアクセスします。またはユナイテッドアプリを開いて「Wi-Fi and entertainment」を選択します。

### United Wi-Fiに関する追加のご案内:

- 機内Wi-Fiサービスおよびパーソナル・デバイス・エンターテイメントをご利用いただけない時間帯が発生する場合があります。
- 無料の機内テキストメッセージは iMessage、WhatsApp、Google の Messages などのアプリでメッセージを送受信できます。写真や動画を含むメッセージはサポートされていません。
- United Wi-Fiに接続中は [united.com](http://united.com)、ユナイテッドアプリ、一部の提携パートナーのウェブサイトにも無料でアクセスできます。ユナイテッドアプリをフライト中にダウンロードすることはできませんので、ご出発前にお手持ちのデバイスにダウンロードのうえインストールしてください。

## Português

### Como se conectar ao Wi-Fi e entretenimento para dispositivos pessoais a bordo

Acesse nossa seleção rotativa e gratuita de filmes e programas de TV em seu dispositivo pessoal ou compre um plano United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> para permanecer conectado durante o voo.

- 1 Ative o modo Avião.
- 2 Conecte-se à rede “United Wi-Fi”.
- 3 Abra seu navegador e acesse [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com) ou abra o aplicativo da United e selecione “Wi-Fi and entertainment” (Wi-Fi e entretenimento).

### Mais informações sobre o United Wi-Fi:

- O serviço de Wi-Fi e o entretenimento para dispositivos pessoais podem estar indisponíveis em determinados momentos do voo.
- A troca de mensagens de texto gratuita a bordo permite que você envie e receba mensagens por meio de aplicativos como iMessage, WhatsApp e Messages by Google. Mensagens que contenham fotos ou vídeos não são compatíveis.
- Enquanto sua conexão ao United Wi-Fi estiver ativa, você poderá acessar gratuitamente o site [united.com](http://united.com), o aplicativo da United e alguns sites de parceiros. Como não é possível baixar o aplicativo da United durante o voo, baixe e instale-o em seu dispositivo antes da partida.

## 简体中文

### 如何连接机舱内 Wi-Fi 和个人娱乐系统

使用您的个人设备观看我们轮播精选的免费电影和电视剧，或购买美联航 Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup> 计划，在飞行期间随时保持互联。

- 1 启用飞行模式
- 2 连接至“UnitedWiFi”网络
- 3 打开您的网络浏览器并访问 [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com) - 或打开美联航应用程序并选择“Wi-Fi and entertainment”

### 有关美联航 Wi-Fi 的更多信息:

- 飞行期间，Wi-Fi 服务和个人娱乐系统在某些时候可能不可用。
- 免费的机上短信服务允许您通过 iMessage、WhatsApp 和 Message by Google 等应用程序发送和接收消息。不支持包含照片或视频的短信。
- 连接至美联航 Wi-Fi 后，您可以免费访问 [united.com](http://united.com)、美联航应用程序和指定合作伙伴网站。无法在飞行中下载美联航应用程序，因此请确保在出发前将该应用程序下载并安装至您的设备上。

## 繁體中文

### 如何連線至機上無線網絡 (Wi-Fi) 和個人裝置娛樂系統

從您的個人裝置觀看我們提供的精選免費電影和電視節目，或購買聯合航空無線網絡 (United Wi-Fi<sup>SM</sup>)，即可在飛行途中保持連線。

- 1 開啟飛行模式
- 2 連接至「UnitedWiFi」網絡
- 3 開啟您的網頁瀏覽器，並前往 [unitedwifi.com](http://unitedwifi.com)，或開啟聯合航空APP，然後選擇「Wi-Fi and entertainment」

### 有關聯合航空無線網絡 (Wi-Fi) 的其它資訊:

- 在飛行期間，無線網絡 (Wi-Fi) 服務和個人裝置娛樂服務有時可能無法使用。
- 免費機上文字短訊服務可讓您透過 iMessage、WhatsApp 和 Messages by Google 等應用程式傳送和接收訊息。不支援包含相片或影片的訊息。
- 連線至聯合航空無線網絡 (Wi-Fi) 後，您可以免費使用 [united.com](http://united.com)、聯合航空APP和指定合作夥伴網站。由於在機上無法下載聯合航空APP，請確保已在起飛前下載並安裝在您的裝置。

# A "JUST BOARDED" TEXT, BUT FROM YOUR BAG.

Track your bag on the United app.



**UNITED**



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

# Travel info

Fleet | Maps | Safety & Regulatory

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## Saks premium bedding items now available on United Shop

United Polaris® business class is dedicated to providing luxurious comfort for an enjoyable and restful flight, thanks in part to premium bedding products designed in partnership with Saks Fifth Avenue. These items are now available for purchase on the United Shop, so you can take them with you wherever you're headed.

The collection includes blankets, pillows, pillowcases, duvets, and bedding bags, all designed according to Saks' fashion-forward point

of view. As part of our continued commitment to sustainability and intentional focus on sourcing recycled materials, these items were made to minimize single-use plastic on board. Several of them are even made from repurposed plastic.

One of the highlights of the collection is an exclusive, limited-edition day blanket designed by Claude Kameni, the winner of The New Wave design contest, sponsored by United. Kameni was part of the Saks emerging designer accelerator

program and blended references from her Cameroonian heritage with elements of her signature style to inspire the winning design that appears on the blankets, which are made from 100 percent recycled plastic.

Whether you're a United fan or a travel pro, you'll find several other unique and useful items available for purchase in the United Shop, from cozy apparel to luxurious self-care items and convenient travel must-haves. Visit [unitedshop.com](https://unitedshop.com) as you prep for your next trip.

## MAINLINE



<b>AIR-CRAFT</b>	777-200/ -200ER/ -300ER	787-8/-9/-10	767-300ER/ -400ER	757-200/ -300	737-700/ -800/-900/ -900ER	737 MAX 8/ MAX 9	Airbus A321neo	A319/A320
<b>CRUISE SPEED</b>	550 mph	560 mph	540 mph	530 mph	530 mph	530 mph	518 mph	530 mph
<b>CAPACITY</b>	Between 276 and 364 passengers	Between 243 and 318 passengers	Between 167 and 231 passengers	Between 176 and 234 passengers	Between 126 and 179 passengers	Between 166 and 179 passengers	200 passengers	Between 126 and 150 passengers
<b>PROPULSION</b>	Two General Electric GE90-115B or two Pratt Whitney PW4077/4090 turbofan engines, rated up to 115,300 pounds thrust	Two General Electric GEEx-1B turbofan engines, rated up to 76,000 pounds thrust	Two General Electric CF6-80C2B or Pratt & Whitney PW4060 turbofan engines, rated up to 63,500 pounds thrust	Two Rolls-Royce RB211-535 turbofan engines, rated up to 43,700 pounds thrust	Two General Electric CFM56-7B turbofan engines, rated up to 27,100 pounds thrust	Two CFM LEAP-1B engines, rated up to 27,900 pounds thrust	Two Pratt & Whitney PW1100G-JM engines, rated up to 33,110 pounds thrust	Two IAE V2500-A5 turbofan engines, rated up to 26,500 pounds thrust
<b>WINGSPAN</b>	Up to 212 ft., 7in.	197 ft., 4 in.	Up to 170 ft., 4 in.	134 ft., 9 in.	118 ft., 2 in.	117 ft., 10 in.	117 ft., 5 in.	111 ft., 11 in.

## UNITED EXPRESS



<b>AIRCRAFT</b>	EMB 170/175	CRJ-200/-550/-700/-900	EMB 145
<b>CRUISE SPEED</b>	520 mph	530 mph	500 mph
<b>CAPACITY</b>	Between 70 and 76 passengers	Between 50 and 76 passengers	50 passengers
<b>PROPULSION</b>	Two General Electric CF34-8E jet engines, rated up to 14,500 pounds thrust	Two General Electric CF34-8C1 jet engines, rated up to 13,000 pounds thrust	Two Rolls-Royce AE3007 turbofan engines, rated up to 8,900 pounds thrust each
<b>WINGSPAN</b>	85 ft., 4 in.	Up to 76 ft., 3 in.	69 ft., 7 in.

# Missed, delayed or canceled flight?

Find new flight options, hotel and meal vouchers, and checked bag info all in one place on the **United app** or **united.com**



## Track your bags

Keep tabs on your checked bags at each point in your journey with real-time updates, from the time you checked them in to when they have been delivered to baggage claim at your destination.



## Switch your flights

If your flight is delayed by more than 60 minutes, canceled, or you missed your connecting flight, use the "Delays and cancellations" section in the United app, **united.com** or a self-service airport kiosk to change your flight.



## Manage hotel and meal vouchers

Find any meal and hotel vouchers that may have been issued to you easily in the "Delays and Cancellations" section of the United app and **united.com**. Vouchers are issued automatically in some cases, so you don't need to speak to an agent.



## Need extra help?

Get connected with a United agent anytime:

- On the United app
- At **united.com/travelhelp**
- Call **1-800-UNITED-1**
- Tag **@united** on social media

## We want to know what you think.

Reach out to us on social media **@united** to tell us about your trip.

*Different policies may apply depending on the nature of the delay. Please refer to **united.com** for our Contract of Carriage for additional information.*

# Use of personal electronic devices



## Our portable electronic device policy

You may use small, lightweight portable electronic devices in non-cellular or airplane mode from gate to gate on United- and United Express®-operated flights. A visible airplane mode symbol should be identifiable and shown to a crew member upon request. This policy doesn't apply to laptops or larger devices.

During takeoff, taxi, and landing, you can hold on to your smaller devices or place them in the seatback pocket as long as the device weighs less than 2 pounds. You must place devices weighing more than 2 pounds in approved carry-on bags in the

overhead compartment or under the seat in front of you. This policy applies to flights operating within the 50 U.S. states, all U.S. territories, and select international locations.

For international destinations, your flight attendants will advise if it's necessary to turn off and stow your device. All devices must be used with the sound off or with headphones at all times.

**In-seat power and Wi-Fi**  
You can use in-seat power throughout the flight, except during taxi, takeoff, and landing if you're in the emergency exit rows. You can connect to Wi-Fi on the ground and purchase it above 10,000 feet. Select aircraft have gate-to-gate connectivity, and we plan to add more in the future.

**Please note:** Use of the in-seat power system is at your own risk. Please don't remove batteries. We're not responsible for loss of data or damage to computer hardware or software.

**Cellular services**  
The use of cellular network services during the flight is not permitted by the Federal Communications Commission. The use of any voice application, such as a web-based Voice over Internet Protocol service like Skype and FaceTime, in connection with inflight Wi-Fi service, is not permitted.

Flight attendants will notify mobile phone and two-way pager users when it is safe to begin placing or receiving phone calls or pages after landing. One-way pagers may be used to receive messages at any time.

**Please note:** If your phone, tablet, or other personal electronic device gets lodged or misplaced within the seat assembly or aircraft structure and you can't easily reach it, please inform the flight crew immediately. Don't try to alter the seat assembly or aircraft structure, or attempt to operate the electronic controls if you're seated in a lie-flat seat. Visit [united.com/lob](http://united.com/lob) and complete the lost items form.

### Permitted

Small, lightweight devices may remain on from door closure to landing

Cell phones in airplane mode or with cellular service disabled

Bluetooth devices

### Limited Permission

Laptops, notebook computers, and DVD players must be stowed in approved carry-on baggage during taxi, takeoff, and landing

### Never permitted

Radio Receivers and/or transmitters, including AM/FM/SW/CB and Scanners

Televisions

Remote-controlled toys

Air purifiers and ionizers

Spare lithium batteries in checked or gate-checked bags

Damaged, defective, or recalled lithium batteries or lithium battery-powered devices

E-cigarettes or personal vaporizers in checked or gate-checked bags

Hoverboards, self-balancing wheeled vehicles, smart wheeled vehicles, riding suitcases, or battery-powered luggage

**Medical syringes:** Customers are permitted to pack medical syringes in carry-on baggage. If you need to use your syringes during your flight, please ask a flight attendant to help you properly dispose of them so they won't harm you, other customers, or United employees.

## Special notices

### Captain requests

The captain may request that all devices be turned off and stowed in certain circumstances, such as for poor-visibility landings. Please always listen to and follow crewmember instructions.

### Smart baggage/powering luggage

Lithium batteries in bags and personal items must be removed and carried into the cabin if these items are being checked. Bags and personal items containing non-removable lithium batteries aren't permitted.

### Medical and assistive devices

Customers may always use medically prescribed physiological instruments, such as a hearing aid or a pacemaker. On aircraft equipped with in-ear headphones, customers with hearing-assistance devices may request a different headset from a flight attendant.

### MedLink and medical emergencies

If a passenger medical situation arises during a flight, United uses a ground-based medical advisory service called MedLink. Flight attendants will coordinate with the captain to contact MedLink. MedLink's medical doctors are extensively trained

in emergency aeromedical medicine, airline procedures and onboard medical equipment. United relies on the MedLink doctor to provide medical guidance and leadership. United respectfully asks any medical volunteers, if willing, to follow the lead of the MedLink doctor and assist with procedures such as obtaining vital signs and administering recommended medical treatment, including medications.

### Accessibility info

For wheelchair assistance and other accessibility questions, call our Accessibility Desk at 1-800-228-2744.

# Safety information

## Need to know

Customer safety is our primary concern. Our flight attendants are thoroughly trained in all safety procedures, but they need your help to ensure that the flight runs as smoothly as possible. Please be aware of the following:



Please review the information on the safety card located at your seat.



Know where your oxygen mask is and how to use it. If you're wearing a face mask, remove it before using an oxygen mask.



Know the correct procedure for exiting the cabin in an emergency.



Know the location of the nearest emergency exit.



Smoking and using smokeless tobacco products are not permitted. Federal law imposes fines of \$1,000 for smoking and up to \$2,200 for any attempt to disable an aircraft's smoke detectors.



Using or charging e-cigarettes or personal vaporizers (vapes) is prohibited on our flights. E-cigarettes and personal vaporizers can't be packed in checked bags, including gate checked bags, because they may accidentally activate. Please stow these items in carry-on bags.



Drinking personal alcohol you brought on board is not permitted. We can't serve alcoholic beverages to anyone who is under 21 or appears to be intoxicated.



Spare lithium batteries can never be packed in checked bags, including gate-checked bags, because of the risk of overload or fire. These batteries should be stored in their electronic devices or properly protected, and stowed away in carry-on bags.

## Hazardous materials

You're not allowed to carry hazardous materials in checked or carry-on bags. Substantial penalties can be imposed for violations. The following are a few prohibited items. See [united.com/restrictedarticles](http://united.com/restrictedarticles) or [www.faa.gov/hazmat/packsafe](http://www.faa.gov/hazmat/packsafe) for more information.

### Not permitted in checked or carry-on baggage



Poisons and radioactive material



Corrosive and oxidizing agents



Flammable liquids, gases and compressed gases



Liquid and solid explosives

### Not permitted in checked baggage



Spare lithium batteries



E-cigarettes and personal vaporizers

## Travel notes

### Face masks

Face masks may be required on board flights to or from certain countries.

### Lost and found

To report an item left on board, please fill out the online "lost items" form located at [united.com/lostitems](http://united.com/lostitems).

### Customer care

We are committed to providing quality service, and we want to hear about your travel experience with us. In addition, if you think a certain employee or action deserves special recognition, please let us know. Please give us your comments at [united.com/feedback](http://united.com/feedback).

### Can I take photos and video on board?

The use of small cameras or mobile devices for photography and video is permitted on board, provided that the purpose is capturing personal events. Any photographing or recording of other customers or airline personnel that creates a safety or security risk, or that interferes with crew members' duties, is prohibited.

### Please note

United strictly prohibits the modification or use of any object or device to alter or limit the functionality or intended use (whether temporarily or permanently) of any aircraft structure, seat assembly, tray table, etc. or which limits access to or egress from any area of the aircraft. This includes, but is not limited to inflatable child beds, inflatable footrests, etc. If you see a customer using any such device or object, please inform United personnel immediately.

# Expedite your travel experience today

Enroll or enable these services to move quickly through security at many U.S. airports.



## Mobile Passport Control<sup>1</sup>

Streamline your entry into the U.S. Download the free Mobile Passport Control app to submit passport and customs declaration information before inspection at select U.S. and Preclearance airports.

The MPC app helps travelers save time when they enter the U.S. by simplifying the passport inspection process and reducing time spent waiting in line. MPC users don't need to fill out a paper entry form and may be provided a designated queue. Plus, families can enter together using MPC on a single device.

The MPC mobile app is available to download for free from the Apple App Store and the Google Play store.

Learn more at [cbp.gov/mpc](https://cbp.gov/mpc).



## TSA PreCheck<sup>®2</sup>

Enroll in TSA PreCheck to experience a smoother security screening process at more than 200 airports in the U.S.

Once you're approved, add your Known Traveler Number to your MileagePlus<sup>®</sup> profile and to your reservation each time you book travel. Children 17 and under may be eligible to join enrolled adults in the TSA PreCheck line in most cases. [Learn more and enroll at tsa.gov/precheck](https://tsa.gov/precheck) to travel with ease.

### Save time and money

**MileagePlus members:** Cover your TSA PreCheck application costs for only 11,000 miles when you enroll with Idemia.<sup>3</sup> Visit [securityfees.mileageplus.com](https://securityfees.mileageplus.com) to learn more.



## Global Entry<sup>4</sup>

Travel seamlessly and reliably with Global Entry and enjoy expedited entry into the U.S. Streamline your customs experience even more and download the Global Entry Mobile App to use in select airports.

Global Entry includes TSA PreCheck, and conditionally approved applicants can use Enrollment on Arrival (EoA) to conveniently complete their interview when they arrive in the U.S. at many airports instead of scheduling an appointment.

Not a U.S. citizen? You may still be eligible to apply. [Learn more at cbp.gov/globalentry](https://cbp.gov/globalentry).<sup>4</sup>

## Up to \$100 Global Entry or TSA PreCheck fee credit for Chase Cardmembers

Get up to a \$100 Global Entry, NEXUS or TSA PreCheck fee credit every four years when charged to your United<sup>SM</sup> Explorer Card, United Quest<sup>SM</sup> Card or United Club<sup>SM</sup> Infinite Card. Visit [unitedcards.com](https://unitedcards.com) to learn more.

**Are you REAL ID ready? Starting May 7, 2025, you'll need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the U.S. Learn more at [tsa.gov/real-id](https://tsa.gov/real-id)**

**On aircraft equipped with Wi-Fi, you can access the sites on this page for free from your mobile device.**

<sup>1</sup> Our sites, mobile applications and our online services may contain links to third-party applications or sites that are governed by the privacy policies of those third parties and not by United's privacy policy. United is not responsible for your use of these third-party sites and applications, or the information practices of such third parties.

<sup>2</sup> The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) manages and operates TSA PreCheck, an expedited security screening program that allows certain travelers to move through security more quickly and easily at participating airports in the U.S. TSA, not United, selects travelers for expedited screening.

<sup>3</sup> 11,000 miles covers the \$78 application fee when you enroll with Idemia.

<sup>4</sup> Global Entry is a U.S. government program. United has no control over the application and/or approval process, and does not have access to any information provided to the government by the United Explorer, United Quest, and United Club Infinite Cardmembers. United has no liability regarding the Global Entry Program. Visit [globalentry.gov](https://globalentry.gov) for more information regarding the application and/or approval process, as well as the full terms and conditions of this program.





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– WILLIE GEIST, MORNING JOE

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– JACOB SOBOROFF, TODAY

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– AKBAR GBAJABIAMILA, THE TALK



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# Visit Denver's upgraded United Club locations



**Welcome home, Denver:** Two enhanced United Club<sup>SM</sup> locations are available for members and guests to enjoy.














The United Club in Denver's Terminal A West (near Gate A25) and the United Club in Terminal B East (near Gate B44) feature a total of over 1,000 seats between the two locations.

In addition to the premium amenities you expect when visiting the United Club, these locations also have:

- More beers on tap than any other United Club
- Two fireplaces and cozy mountain vibes
- Locally made artwork and materials throughout

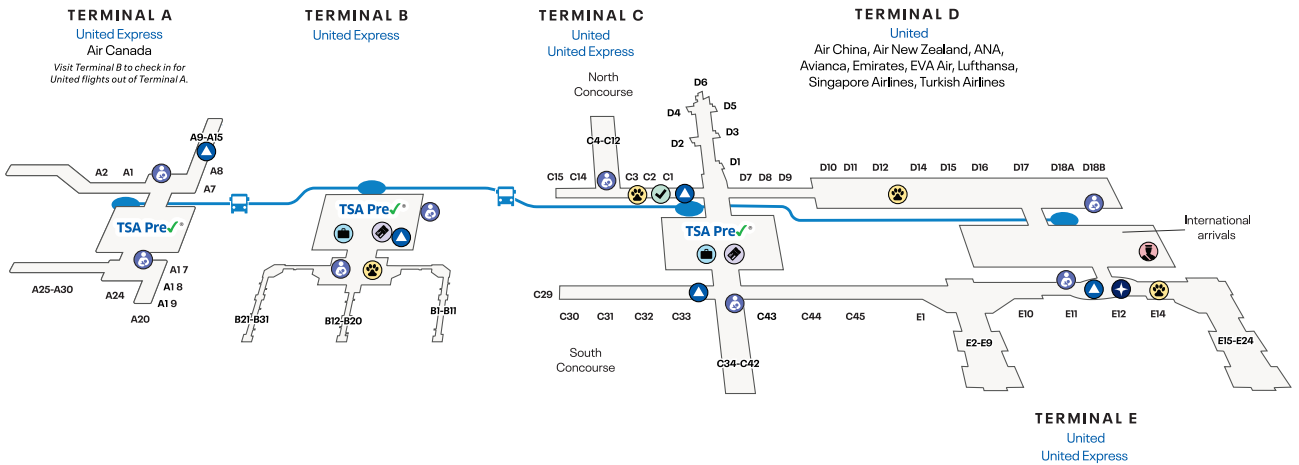
**Heads up:** We're still investing even more in Denver to improve your travel experience. To continue these efforts, the United Club in Terminal B West (near Gate B32) is closed for renovations.

# Travel info Airport maps

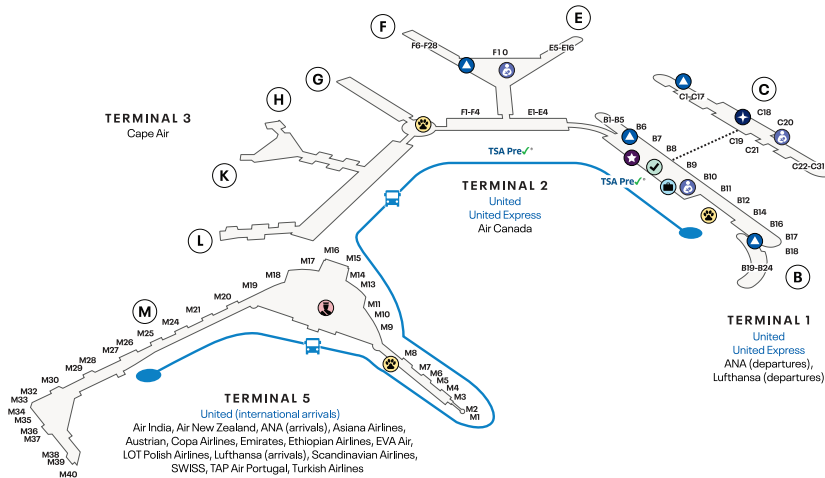
-  Kiosk check-in
-  Ticketing/check-in
-  Baggage claim
-  Immigration
-  Animal relief area
-  United Polaris® lounge
-  United Club™ location
-  United Premier® check-in
-  Medical center
-  Nursing room
-  Transfer shuttle, bus, monorail or train transport
-  Secure walkway
-  TSA Pre✓™ TSA pre-screening program

**Visit the United app to see more airport maps.**

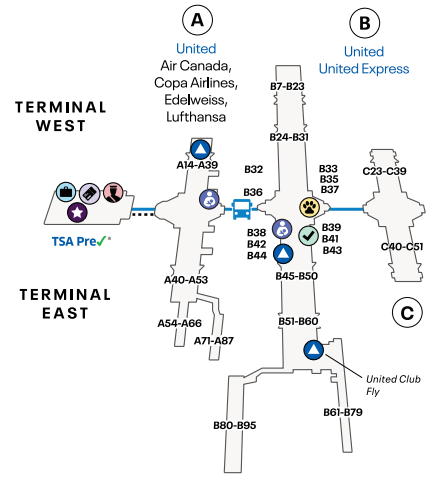
## IAH | HOUSTON GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT



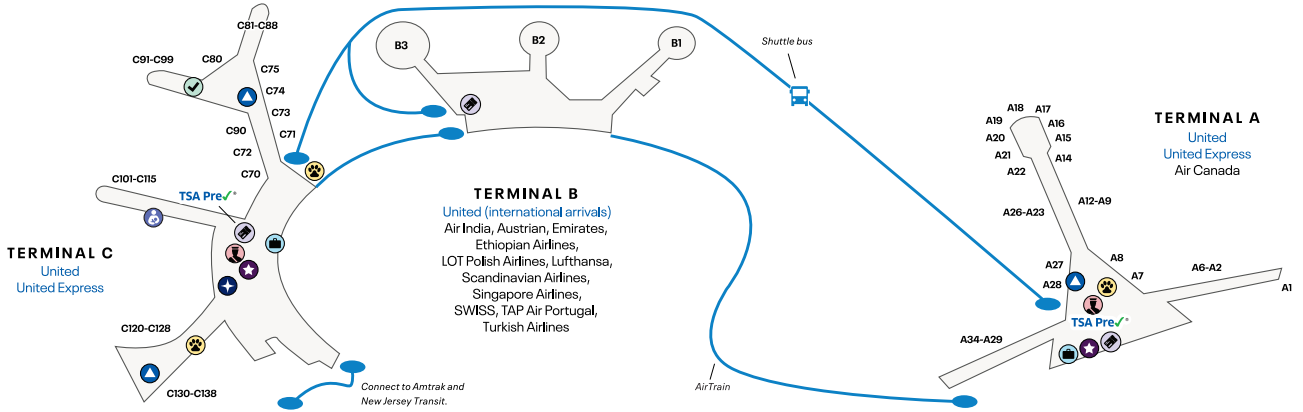
## ORD | CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



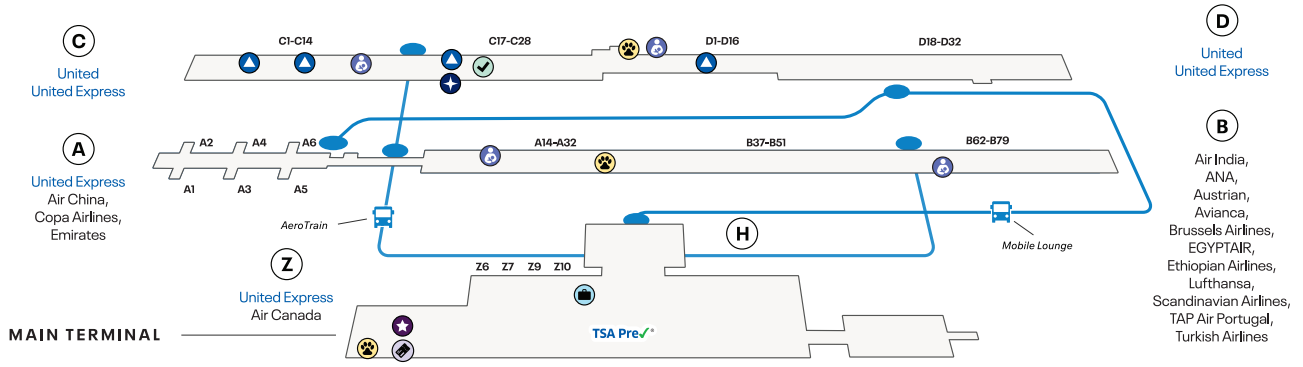
## DEN | DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



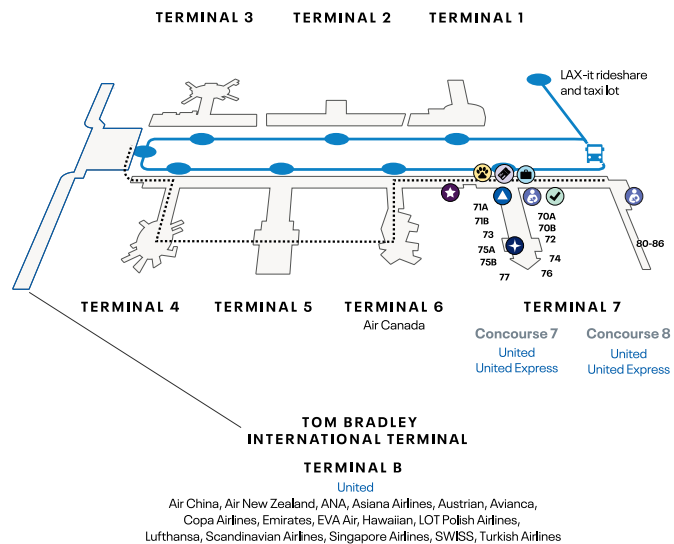
**EWR** | NEW YORK/NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



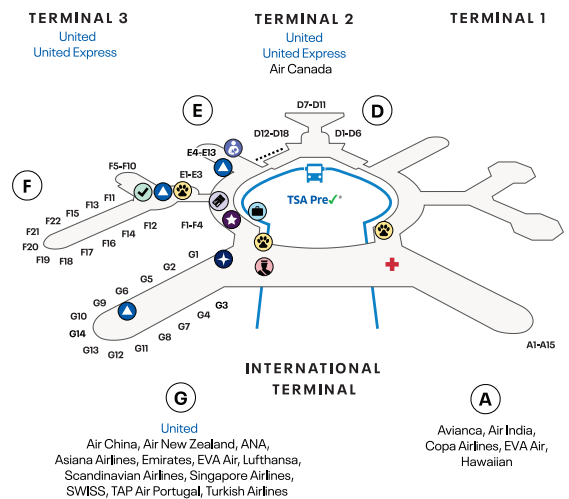
**IAD** | WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



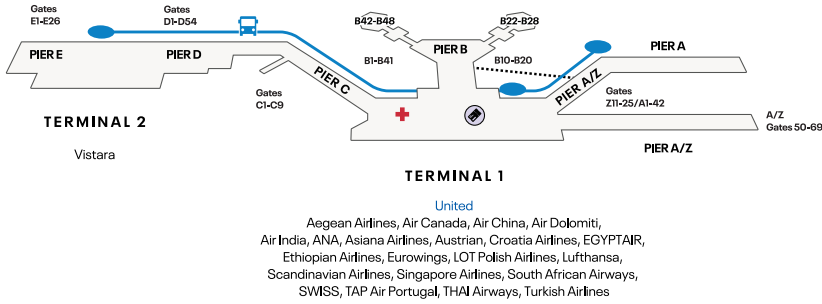
**LAX** | LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



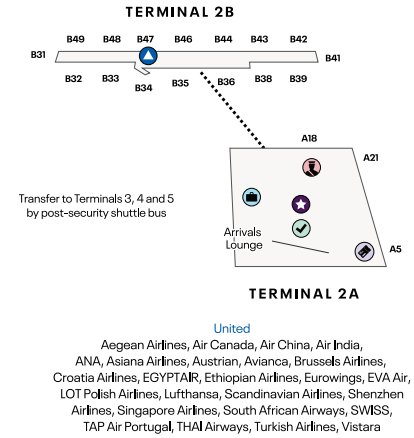
**SFO** | SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



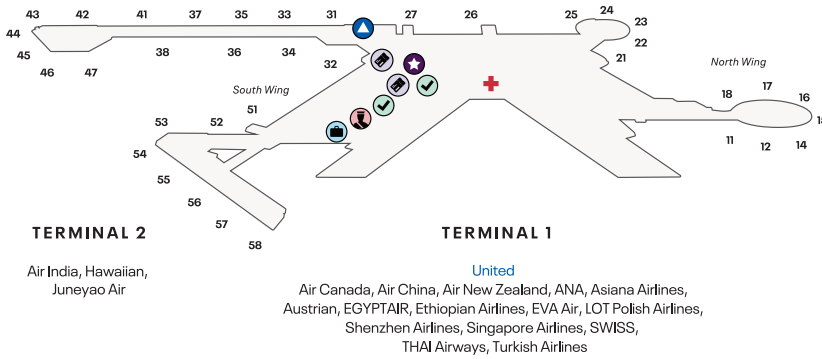
## FRA | FRANKFURT AIRPORT



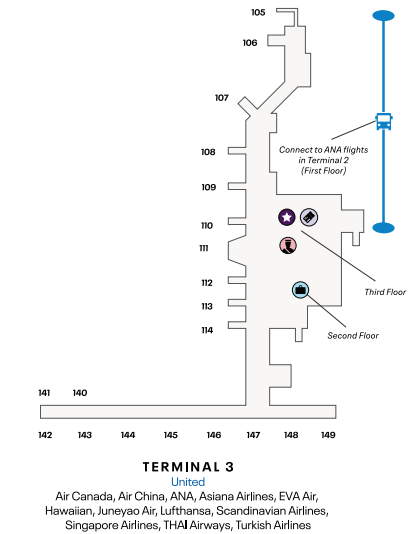
## LHR | LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT



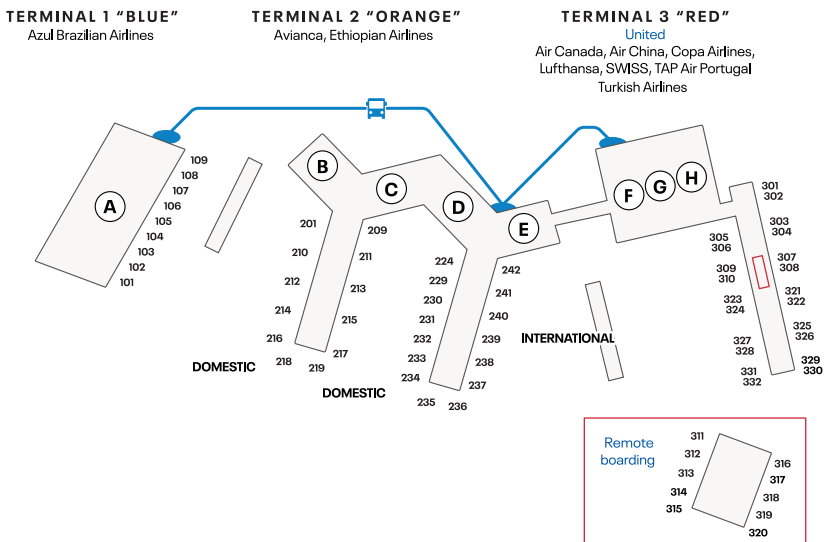
## NRT | NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



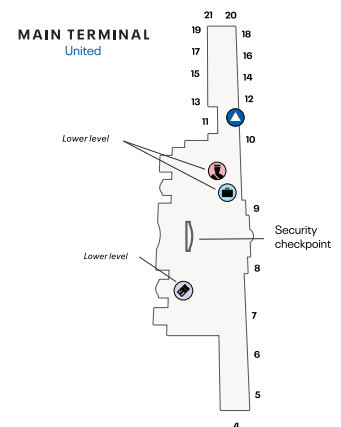
## HND | TOKYO HANEDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



## GRU | SÃO PAULO/GUARULHOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



## GUM | GUAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



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Christchurch, New Zealand

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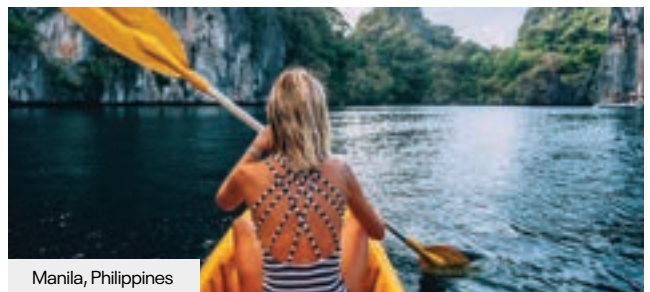
They'll stay in your account until you're ready to use them.



Paris, France

## The most award destinations<sup>2</sup>

Use miles to travel almost anywhere with United and our Star Alliance™ partners.



Manila, Philippines

## The most ways to earn and use miles<sup>3</sup>

Earn miles on flights, shopping, dining and more. Use them to book travel with Money + Miles, or share them with miles pooling.

<sup>1</sup>As published by IdeaWorksCompany Annual Reward Availability of economy saver style rewards for June-Oct 2019; among loyalty programs of U.S. global airlines

<sup>2</sup>Among U.S. global airlines. Includes Star Alliance partner flights.

<sup>3</sup>Of U.S. airline loyalty programs

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