

EXPLORING TRAVEL FAVORITES AND FRONTIERS

# TRAVEL AGE WEST

DECEMBER 12, 2022

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ALGV PRO 

TRAVEL ADVISOR SPECIALIST PROGRAM

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EXPLORING TRAVEL FAVORITES AND FRONTIERS

# TRAVEL AGE WEST

DECEMBER 12, 2022



A VEGAN  
VISIT TO  
SOUTH KOREA

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NEWS FROM  
WAIKIKI BEACH  
MARRIOTT

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OLD-SCHOOL  
SAILING ON  
STAR CLIPPER

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## Picture PERFECT

*TravelAge West is pleased to reintroduce its 10th Annual Reader Photo Contest, with winning entries that remind us why it's human nature to travel*



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18 Picture Perfect TravelAge West is pleased to reintroduce its 10th Annual Reader Photo Contest By Mindy Poder

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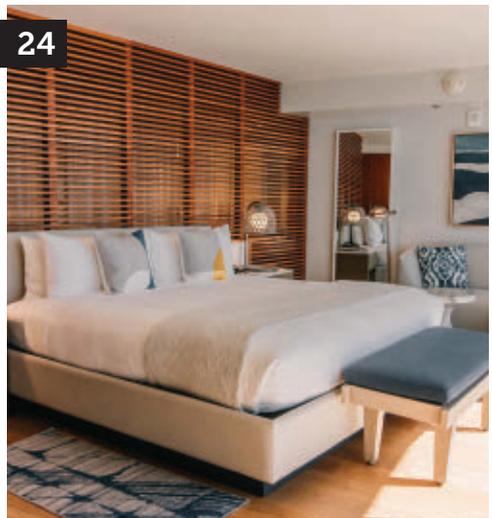
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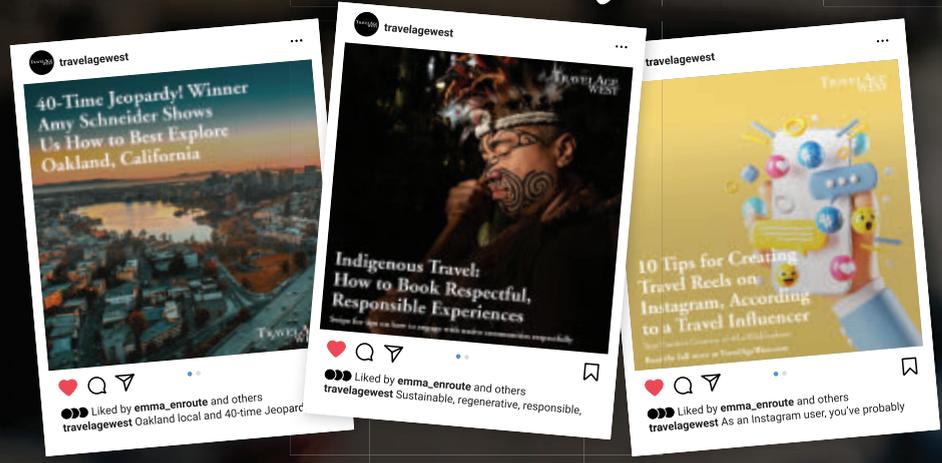
Camels in Wadi Rum, Jordan. Photography by travel advisor Julie Patterson.



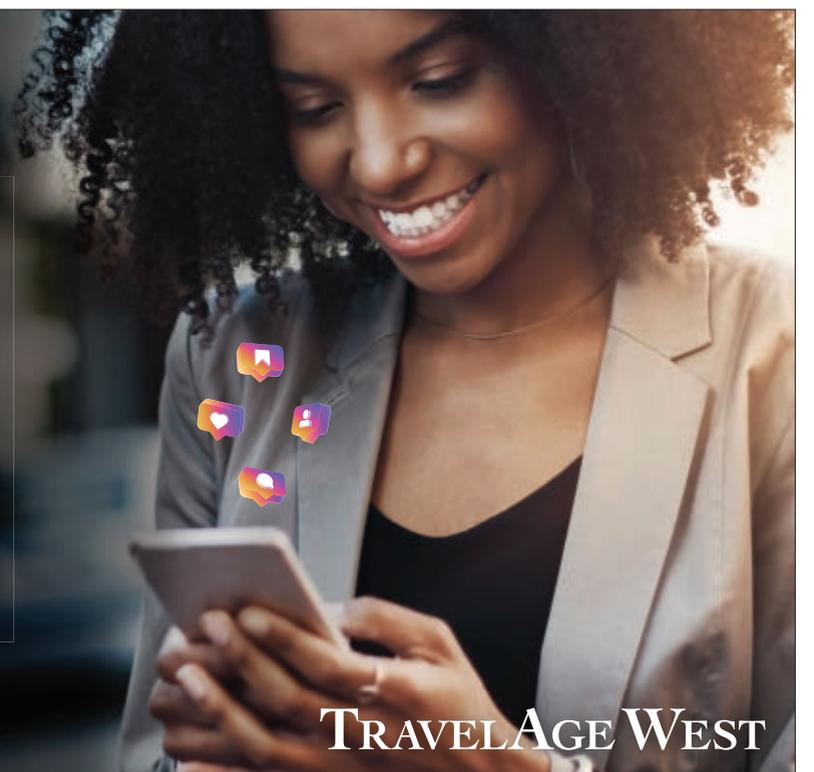
Check out the latest Family Getaways, included with this issue

AND MORE

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## Happy Holidays

*The travel recovery is on as clients finally get to live out their dreams*

Every year, I use the final print issue as an opportunity to celebrate the year behind us, as well as to look ahead at what's to come. I'm very relieved to say that, this year, I'm more optimistic than I have been in a long time.

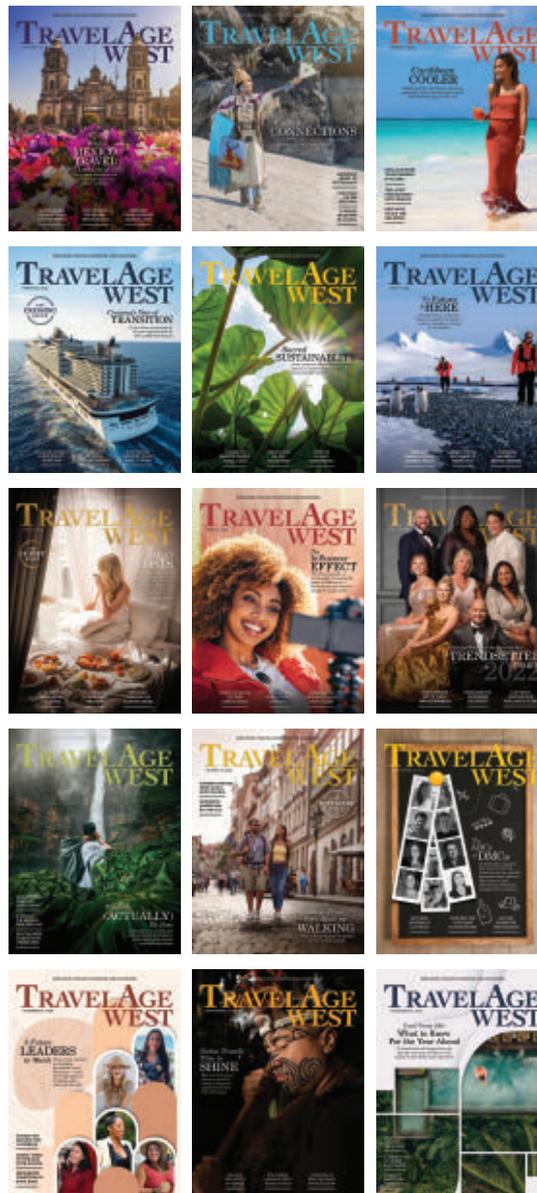
There's no doubt that 2022 was a bounce-back year following the COVID-19 crisis. And, while we are not completely out of the woods yet, many travel advisors are seeing business rebound to levels not reached since before the pandemic. Clients are finally able to experience the trips they dreamed about during the darkest days of lockdowns.

In 2023, I think we will be fully engaged in what might be called the post-COVID-19 new normal. Our world has changed, and with it, our industry is evolving, too. There's a wave of fresh faces in the advisor profession, and they bring with them creative ideas for how to tackle shared challenges.

As we move forward, many more of these long-term changes will reveal themselves. But regardless of what's to come, here at *TravelAge West*, we will continue to support our readers in whatever way we can. So, here's to happy holidays and a great new year!

*Kenneth Shapiro*

Kenneth Shapiro, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, *TravelAge West*



Vol. 57, No. 16, December 12, 2022

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Villandry Chateau & Gardens in the Loire Valley



A new villa-style room at the Hyatt Regency in Puerto Rico



Lindt's ode to chocolate in Zurich

### EUROPE

#### 6 Chateau Experiences in The Loire Valley

Several of today's castle-keepers have developed out-of-the-norm experiences worth checking out ([TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Europe](http://TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Europe))

### EUROPE

#### What's New in the Largest City in Switzerland

From a trendy urban resort to a temple of chocolate, here's what to recommend in Zurich ([TravelAge West.com/Travel/Europe](http://TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Europe))

### CARIBBEAN

#### Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve Puerto Rico

A first-person review of a family stay at this Coco Beach hotel ([TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Caribbean](http://TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Caribbean))

### HOTELS

#### Review: El Mangroove In Costa Rica

The modern luxury resort is located on the Gulf of Papagayo ([TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Hotels](http://TravelAgeWest.com/Travel/Hotels))

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PLEASE RECYCLE

# FIND OUT WHAT'S NEW IN '22



## CHECK OUT TRAVEL WEEKLY'S WHAT'S NEW 2022,

an invaluable digital resource that is updated throughout the year.

Many destinations, properties and cruise lines have been gearing up for the increase in consumer demand. Read on to see how they've upgraded and what's new and noteworthy.

Go to [www.TravelWeekly.com/For-Travel-Agents/  
Guides-Brochures](http://www.TravelWeekly.com/For-Travel-Agents/Guides-Brochures)

# The Icon of Vacations<sup>SM</sup>

Why settle for an ordinary getaway when you can venture on a vacation you'll be talking about for years to come? With Royal Caribbean®, unforgettable is always on the itinerary. Follow where adventure leads onboard the boldest ships in the world.

## DIAL UP THE DARING

Take the best-ever vacation and crank it up —way up. This is a whole new class of adventure. The kind that fills every moment with new thrills and changes the way your clients play for good. Like braving six record-breaking slides at Category 6, the largest waterpark at sea. Or finding the courage to conquer the Crown's Edge, a test of bravery like nothing they've ever dared, dangling high above the ocean. And discovering adventure for the ages—all the ages—at Surfside<sup>SM</sup>, a stay-all-day neighborhood that opens the floodgates on family fun. A sprawling aquapark and pool give kids more ways to splash and play, with plenty of bites nearby to fuel up for bolder bonding. This is more than a vacation. It's the best family vacation in the world.

## POOL HOP NON STOP

Save room for some extra splash—the new *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup> has an all-you-can-swim buffet of unique pools to satisfy any mood your clients are in. Take the pick of seven different pools, plus nine whirlpools. All with next-level ocean views, so they'll always feel connected to the sea. Like The Hideaway, the first suspended infinity pool at sea, buzzing with beach club beats high in the sky. Cloud 17<sup>SM</sup> is the adults-only poolside oasis in a new stratosphere of chic. Frozen cocktails are on tap at The Lime & Coconut® bar spanning multiple levels, or can dive in and order up at the largest swim-up bar at sea, Swim & Tonic<sup>SM</sup>. It's your clients day their way—soak up every minute.

## EVERYTHING BUT THE EXPECTED

Technology and artistry merge on the new *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup>, and awe is inspired on a grand new scale. Starting with the shimmering AquaDome<sup>SM</sup>. Perched at the crown of the ship, this first-of-its-kind space opens up a world of new possibilities. From performances that push the bounds of bravery beneath a mesmerizing, morphing, towering waterfall to gourmet grazing and mixology magic against a background of wraparound ocean views. And see bold feats unleashed at Absolute Zero<sup>SM</sup>, our biggest ice arena ever, where high-resolution digital projection from ceiling to rink instantly transforms everything around from one moment to the next.

## MAKE ROOM FOR AWESOME

On the new *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup>, where guests stay is just as awesome as how they play—in some of the most spacious rooms we've ever designed. Bring the whole family and discover new room types that give everyone their own space to hang, like Family Infinite Ocean View Balconies or Surfside Family Suites. Or upgrade to upscale from a selection of elevated accommodations, including the new Sunset Suites and Infinite Grand Suites. For the most over-the-top VIP stay, the Ultimate Family Townhouse maximizes the family vacation on three different levels with an in-suite slide, cinema and a private patio with exclusive entrance to Surfside<sup>SM</sup>.

## THIS IS DINING REDEFINING

Max out those special bonding moments while sharing great food, from everyday noshes to exquisitely-plated masterpieces. With 40 ways to dine and drink, the new *Icon of the Seas*<sup>SM</sup> offers palate-pleasing variety for everyone in the crew. Your clients will find dishes designed to dazzle the most refined foodies and kid-friendly faves that never fail to satisfy. Plus lots of new options to pique their culinary curiosity and a few comforting favorites too. Bring an appetite because the next course is our best course yet.

..... VISIT [LOYALTOYOUALWAYS.COM/ICON](https://www.royalcaribbean.com/icon) .....

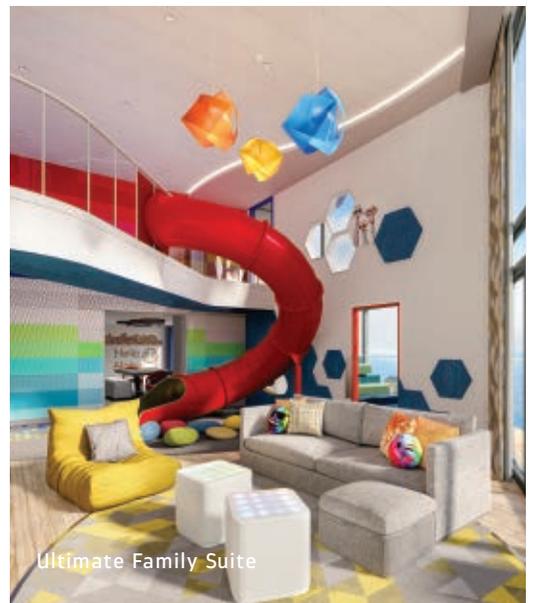
TO LEARN MORE



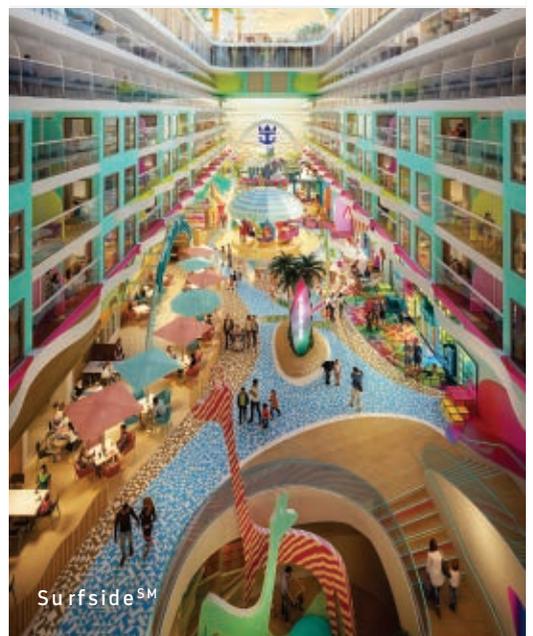
Coco Beach Club  
Perfect Day at CocoCay, Bahamas



Giovanni's Italian Kitchen



Ultimate Family Suite



Surfside<sup>SM</sup>

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# ICON OF THE SEAS

ARRIVES 2024

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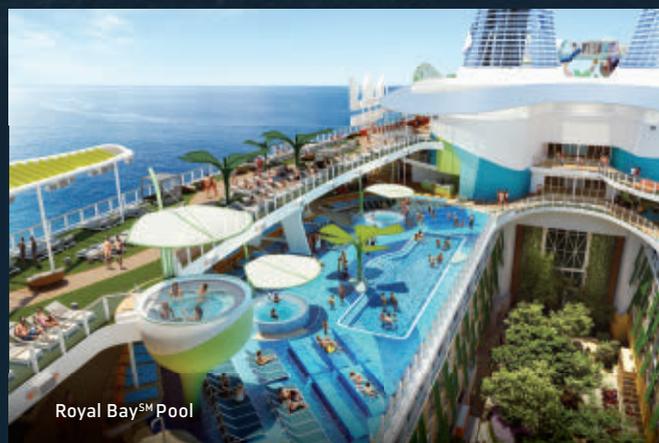
LOYAL TO YOU ALWAYS



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Category 6<sup>SM</sup> Waterpark — Thrill Island



Royal Bay<sup>SM</sup> Pool



AquaDome<sup>SM</sup>



USTOA members will employ 11,650 people by year's end.



Kenneth Shapiro  
Publisher/  
Editor-in-Chief

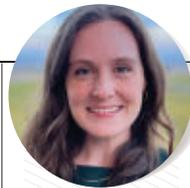
**WHAT:**

**USTOA Survey Predicts a Strong 2023**

The United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) recently released results from an economic impact study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. According to the survey, tour operator business for 2022 will finish up at about 87% of where it was in 2019. In addition, 82% of members anticipate "optimistic" to "significant" growth of 7% to more than 10% next year in sales volume — and another 80% expect to see that growth in the volume of passengers, as well. On the jobs front, USTOA's Active members project employing 11,650 people in the U.S. by the end of 2022. In 2019, USTOA members were responsible for 13,620 jobs.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

Since most tour operators base their business off longer-term bookings, the results of this survey (which 92% of USTOA members responded to) are generally an excellent indicator of what to expect in 2023. The optimism of the tour companies might be tempered by the potential threats identified in the survey, including cost of living increases (67% are extremely or very concerned); global financial instability and staffing shortages (59%); war in Europe (55%); and health crises (49%). ([www.ustoa.com](http://www.ustoa.com))



Emma Weissmann  
Managing  
Editor

**WHAT:**

**Wheel the World Is Offering an Accessible Cruise Itinerary**

Wheel the World (WTW) — an online booking company targeting clients with disabilities, seniors and their families — recently partnered with Holland America Line (HAL) to offer a fully accessible cruise itinerary. The eight-day sailing through Alaska's Inside Passage takes place onboard HAL's Koningsdam, with several departures offered throughout 2023.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

Very few suppliers cater to this underserved market of travelers, who make up about 15% of the world's population and have approximately \$13 trillion in disposable income, according to WTW. This partnership with Holland America Line is a critical step toward making accessible travel available and as worry-free as possible. And travel advisors who book a cruise with Wheel the World can be confident that every part of the trip has been vetted for clients, from wheelchair accessibility and adaptive equipment availability to information on staff training and state-room measurements. ([www.wheeltheworld.com](http://www.wheeltheworld.com))

Wheel the World is opening the door to accessible cruising.



TTC is reducing emissions across its portfolio, including at Red Carnation Hotels.



Kelly Rosenfeld  
Senior Editor

**WHAT:**

**TTC Aims to Achieve Net-Zero Emissions by 2050**

In 2020, The Travel Corporation (TTC) launched a sustainability strategy with the goal of going carbon neutral by 2030. Now, the company has announced that it is taking its climate action commitments to a new level, aiming to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 (replacing its original goal of carbon neutrality). TTC's plan focuses on reducing emissions across its portfolio of brands instead of relying on carbon offsets. A newly created internal carbon fund with TTC brands' revenue will also be used solely for net-zero initiatives.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

TTC understands that swift and far-reaching measures are needed to combat climate change. By setting these goals for its 40 travel brands, the company is showing itself to be a leader in the industry when it comes to environmental protections and change. What's more, TTC's net-zero targets have been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative, and the company has announced that it will publicly report on its carbon fund and its progress against these targets — providing proof that the group is putting its money where its mouth is. ([www.ttc.com](http://www.ttc.com))

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American advisors met with Irish travel providers in four Southern California cities.

## Tourism Ireland Hosts First U.S. Luxury Summit

*Irish tourism companies networked with U.S. travel planners in California for the four-day sales summit* By Kelly Rosenfeld

Last month, Tourism Ireland hosted its first-ever U.S. Luxury Summit, bringing together American travel planners and 14 Irish tourism companies in California. Visiting Beverly Hills, Santa Barbara, Newport Beach and San Diego over the course of four days, the sales summit was designed to keep Ireland top of mind for luxury travel. "Our inaugural U.S. Luxury Summit in Southern California [was] an excellent platform for Tourism Ireland and our partners to highlight the superb luxury tourism offering available around the island of Ireland — from our boutique hotels, castles and luxury resorts to our rich culture and heritage ... world-class golf and wonderful culinary scene," said Alison Metcalfe, head of North America for Tourism Ireland. "The luxury sales summit offers a really good opportunity to increase awareness of Ireland among the influential luxury travel buyers based in this part of the United States and to secure a greater share of their valuable business for 2023 and beyond." ([www.tourismireland.com](http://www.tourismireland.com))



Muskat

### SCENIC GROUP

#### Muskat Named U.S. Managing Director

Scenic Group has appointed Ken Muskat as managing director for the U.S. market. Muskat most recently served as executive vice president and COO of MSC Cruises (USA); he has more than 25 years of cruise industry management experience. — K.R.



Gardinier

### RELAIS & CHATEAUX

#### Gardinier Becomes President

Laurent Gardinier has been elected president of luxury hotel and restaurant association Relais & Chateaux. He will take over the role on Jan. 1, 2023, and plans to reduce the company's environmental footprint and increase its social responsibility. — K.R.



Golds

### A&K TRAVEL GROUP, LTD.

#### Golds Promoted to Chief Tour Operating Officer

A&K Travel Group, Ltd. (parent company of Abercrombie & Kent, Crystal Cruises and Cox & Kings) has promoted Kerry Golds to chief tour operating officer. She has been with A&K since 2013, when she joined as managing director. — K.R.



Let's face it ... There's a lot to figure out. That's why we've compiled all the best *TravelAge West* coverage for new travel advisors.

Our new guide, "40 Tips and Resources for New Travel Agents," serves as a jumping-off point for new-to-industry advisors, covering topics such as vetting supplier partners, choosing the right host agency or consortium, wading through the near-endless options for training and education, understanding legal liabilities, developing a business model and so much more.

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TRAVELAGE WEST

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

## Barging and Bubbles

Next May, clients visiting France will have a new way to explore the Champagne region: by luxury barge charter with **BELMOND** and Maison Ruinart, the world's oldest Champagne house.

With the debut of Coquelicot, a Belmond Boat, Champagne, the partnership will offer luxury travelers the chance to immerse themselves in the effervescence of the region — in the highest of style. The barge features three spacious double cabins with marble ensuite bathrooms; an indoor salon with its own Champagne bar (stocked with a curated selection of guests' preferred labels); and an extensive top deck outfitted with two seating lounges, an open kitchen and a shaded outdoor dining area.

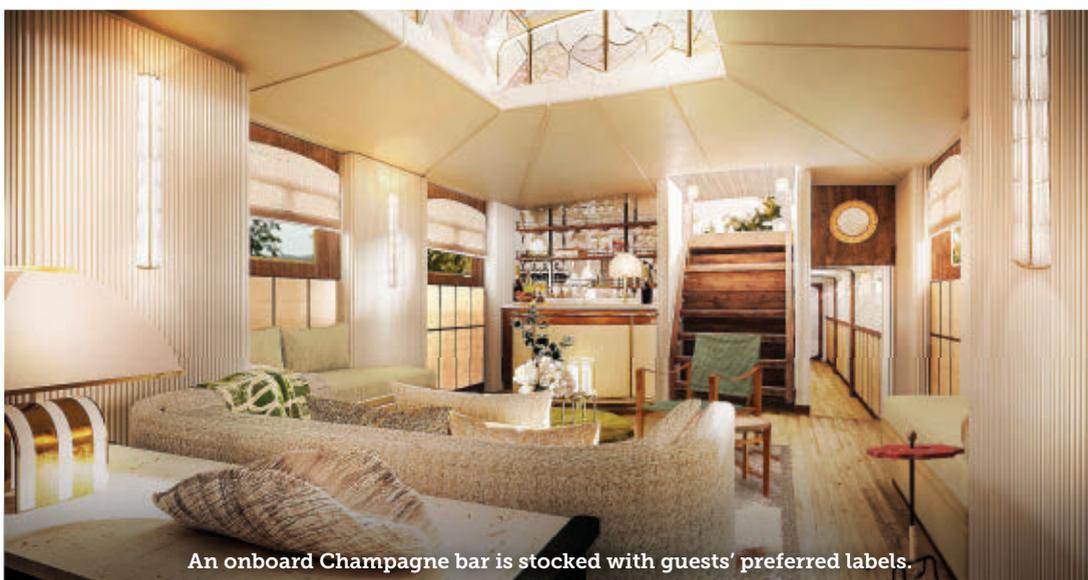
Thanks to Belmond's partnership with Maison Ruinart, barge guests will have the opportunity to tour its historic vineyard. After exploring the grounds (which also feature a new art installation), travelers will be treated to a Champagne tasting before heading back to the barge for a private five-course tasting lunch by Ruinart's chef in residence and Coquelicot's head chef.

The rest of the itinerary can be customized with the help of Belmond's personal guest experience executives, with art-focused touring options, historic discovery at castles, active onshore excursions or epicurean visits to local wine producers.

Coquelicot is available for all-inclusive, weeklong private charters; rates begin at approximately \$79,500. ([www.belmond.com](http://www.belmond.com)) — Kelly Rosenfeld



The barge's outdoor deck features a dining area.



An onboard Champagne bar is stocked with guests' preferred labels.

A recent South Korea fam explored several cities.



JUST GOT BACK

## Going Vegan In South Korea

How often do you get to go to South Korea on a fam trip — let alone a vegan one?

This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for me. I have not seen any tourism board or tour company come up with something like this. And I have been in the business since 1985.

We were invited to South Korea in October to help promote vegan culinary travel in the country. The trip was organized by the Korea Tourism Organization and visited cities including Yeosu, Busan, Gyeongju and Seoul. The group comprised vegan U.S. and Canadian tour operators, vegan travel bloggers and other tour operators looking to expand their tours to vegans.

Being a vegan for so many years (since 1983), I was intrigued. I have not found Asian food in general to be very vegan-friendly until recently. But this trip focused on traditional temple food, as well as vegan restaurants.

For those who don't know what temple food is, it is farm-to-table food — all vegan — and has been around for more than 1,000 years. It is not as plain as I thought it would be and actually rather tasty. I now think it will be a breeze to send my clients to South Korea.

Some of the other highlights for me were the temples we visited (including Jingwansa Temple and Bulguksa Temple), as well as Gyeongbok Palace. This was my first visit to a palace, and it was overwhelming, to say the least. — Donna Zeigfinger, president/owner of Green Earth Travel, LLC.

Want to be featured in Just Got Back? Send a photo from your recent trip with a description to [letters@travelagewest.com](mailto:letters@travelagewest.com).

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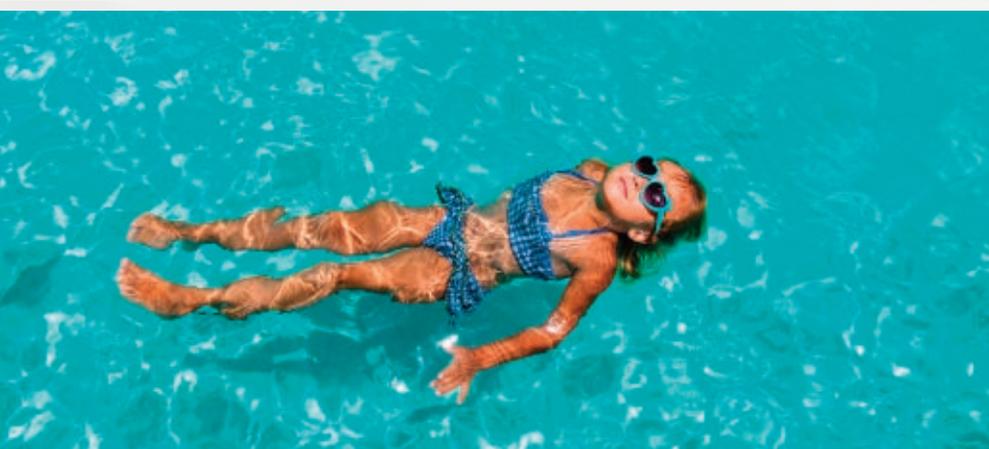
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# PICTURE

10TH ANNUAL READER PHOTO CONTEST, WITH WINNING ENTRIES

# PERFECT

THAT REMIND US WHY IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO TRAVEL BY MINDY PODER

**THIS STORY IS ABOUT 1,000 WORDS** — the same number they say a photo is worth. But some of you will skip entire sentences of this piece, instead scanning the images themselves for meaning. And that's fair enough. The winning photos of the *TravelAge West* 10th Annual Reader Photo Contest drew us in, too. Evocative and beautiful, they invited conversation, pulled at our heart-strings, conjured old memories and inspired future travel. In them, we saw visual representations of why we schlep baggage, cram our bodies into tiny seats and even pay money to do so: for the people we meet, the new perceptions we gain and the emotions we feel — being wholly present chief among them.

This story is special for other reasons, too. Our 10th contest is our first since the pandemic began, and it feels good to be back, celebrating travel advisors doing what they do best — traveling and sharing their journeys with their colleagues and clients. From riding camels in search of adventure to sunbathing solo in the Mediterranean Sea, these photos remind us of the experiences that human beings perpetually pursue if they are lucky enough. On that note, we wish you a fortuitous 2023, full of life-affirming travel for you and your clients alike.

FIRST PLACE:

**Julie Patterson**

WANDERFULLY PLANNED, HOLLAND, MICH.

"One of the highlights in Wadi Rum, Jordan, is riding a camel, so a small group of us decided to hitch a ride to experience the sunrise, killing two birds with one stone. I was circling the camels and grabbing shots at every angle when I saw how the white camel was perfectly framed in the saddle of its flock mate; the sun was just starting to peek up over the hills in the background, bringing the desert to life; and the palm trees were silhouetted against the rising sun. I was lucky that there was some haze in the mid-ground, offering a cool effect with the palm trees and the hills in the distance. The way the sand is naturally textured by the wind, the Jeep tracks and the camel prints also worked perfectly for the shot, with the lines mirroring those of the horizon. It just screamed 'this is Jordan.'"





# WINNERS



## HONORABLE MENTIONS

HONORABLE MENTION:

**Julie Patterson**

WANDERFULLY PLANNED, HOLLAND, MICH.

"I am always scanning for moments worthy of a photo. The day at this school in Uganda was no different. The kids were smiling and singing, so full of joy and happiness. It was absolutely infectious. When I saw the boys peering out at me from the window, I instinctually knew this was going to be a good shot and raised my camera to capture the scene. They set themselves up perfectly, with one boy centered as the focal point, while two of his classmates flanked him on either side, with more of their peers' shadows in the background. [The boy in the center] also really helped me out by positioning himself directly in the middle of the bars, which helped me tell a pretty compelling story."



## SECOND PLACE:

**Antoine D. Wilson**

A.D. ELITE TRAVELS, MIAMI

"I have always wanted to witness the Great Migration crossing the Mara River in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. I was warned going into it that the animals are unpredictable, and there is no guarantee that I would witness the migration crossing the river. Well, I guess it was my lucky day, because I got to see two separate crossings. It was an adrenaline rush, and the sound of the stampede gave me chills. It was as if someone blew a whistle or school let out — the animals were coming from everywhere. From the dust rising in the air to the sound of the water and the grunts from the animals, I am so ready to return to the Serengeti."

## THIRD PLACE:

**Angie Brandt**

BOTH WORLDS TRAVEL, RALEIGH, N.C.

"This summer, my family and friends chartered our own catamaran from Athens to the surrounding islands. This was my last morning swim of the vacation, relishing in the calmness, the beauty and simplicity of this area. We took a lot of footage during that trip, but we learned quickly we had to be cautious for a few reasons. In Greece, it is very common to see people in the nude, either bathing or swimming at any time of day right off their boat and right next to you. Also, using a drone on a boat is very challenging for an amateur. Boats are constantly moving even when not underway, which makes launching and landing somewhat difficult. I recommend making a list of shots you want, including a general idea of how you plan to use the footage. Embrace the spontaneous moments, however, and do not delete anything. You could even uncover hidden gems, just like this photo. My image encapsulates the dreamy quality of the Mediterranean and brings a visceral, sensory component to it, evoking emotion and fueling the flames of wanderlust."



## HONORABLE MENTION:

**Julie Patterson**

WANDERFULLY PLANNED, HOLLAND, MICH.

"Photography is such a huge part of my travel experience, and capturing this hummingbird in the wild in Monteverde, Costa Rica, reminded me again how fortunate I am to be a small part of this great big, beautiful world. I probably took 1,000 photos to get 30 good shots, this being one of the best. Hummingbirds move between 20-30 miles per hour, so the fact that I was able to capture such a crisp, clean image of such a tiny bird was incredible."



## HONORABLE MENTIONS

HONORABLE MENTION:

**Sydney Zaruba**

EXPLORATEUR TRAVEL/THE BOHO TRAVELLER,  
PALATKA, FLA.

"Visiting the Sahara Desert was one of the great adventures of my life. Not only was it a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but we happened across an afternoon thunderstorm, and my Florida girl heart had to go dance in the rain. Never in a million years did I expect to see a Sahara rainstorm, but it's a memory that will be told to my family for generations to come. I threw out the tripod, set the self-timer and started running and dancing, and managed to snap this self-portrait."



HONORABLE MENTION:

**Lauren Quirk**

TRAVEL WITH CHARACTER,  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF.

"The old man was a musician playing a barrel organ on a side street near the main square of Bruges, Belgium. As a music lover and a performer myself, I love the moments where music enhances the world we experience. Whether it's a guitarist at an outdoor cafe, a choir of children singing in a cathedral, a guitarist at an outdoor cafe, this man in the cobblestone square or even a piano player at a crowded airport, music and travel go hand in hand. I rendered the photo in a monochrome style, as I thought it complemented the antiquity of the organ and its tune. When traveling, it's not just the historical buildings and sights that draw us. The art, culture, people and, in this case, music, are also important reasons why we explore."



**HONORABLE MENTION:**  
**Vicki Winters**  
BUCKET LIST TRAVELERS,  
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

"We had just finished kayaking, and then we got onto a Zodiac from our ship, Atlas Ocean Voyages' World Navigator, to sail over to Brown Station. I am one of the lucky few who will ever get to go to this remote location, and I wanted to capture some of the interesting scenery. It is so inspiring to me to think about the animals and humans who live in these wild weather conditions and solitude. I am so thankful for and impressed by those who are studying the environment and doing this incredibly important scientific research. This photo really tells a story of both how the station remains today and how penguins live."



**HONORABLE MENTION:**  
**Melanie Rodriguez**  
TRAVEL WITH CHARACTER,  
LEESBURG, VA.

"We were visiting Awana Kancha Camelids Center in Cusco, Peru, a refuge for llamas, alpacas and vicuñas, run entirely by local women. As we were getting the tour, we saw the large open pen of all the animals and were handed a bouquet of grass and told, 'We'll give a prize to whoever takes the best selfie with a llama.' I love a photo challenge, and luckily for me, I found a vicuña who was obsessed with the smell of my shampoo. He followed me around the whole time and I did get multiple selfies with him, but as we were wrapping up and getting ready to go inside to the shop, I knew I had to get a portrait of my new best friend."

INDUSTRY Q&A

## Back to Business

*Industry veteran Jerry Gibson discusses renovations at Waikiki Beach Marriott, and how tourism is looking for Oahu in the months to come*

Shane Nelson



Gibson is the new GM at Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

**L**ate last month, Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa announced that longtime Hawaii tourism veteran, Jerry Gibson, has taken over as general manager at the 1,310-room Oahu property.

Gibson spent 11 years as area vice president for Hilton Hawaii but, more recently, he oversaw the \$250 million redevelopment at Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu's North Shore as vice president for BRE Hotels & Resorts.

### What other improvements were made?

There are two large pools now — one is an adult pool, and the other is an “everybody pool” — and there’s a new restaurant concept there, too. The pool deck was also made to handle large groups for receptions, and for the shows and luaus we will be bringing to the resort in the next six months.

### How did Oahu tourism business perform in 2022?

January through August 15 [of] this year went very well. We still had some pent-up demand from the mainland U.S., particularly from California, which was really, really strong. But I would say that pent-up demand has subsided a little bit.

And we still have not been able to bring back Japanese visitors. The yen is hanging at around 136 to the dollar, [making it] very expensive for the Japanese to travel [here]. Also, there is a premium on top of an air ticket for fuel — anywhere from \$500 to \$700. So, Japanese travelers have not come back. Neither have [Australian] visitors or Canadian travelers, due to the value of their dollar, as well.

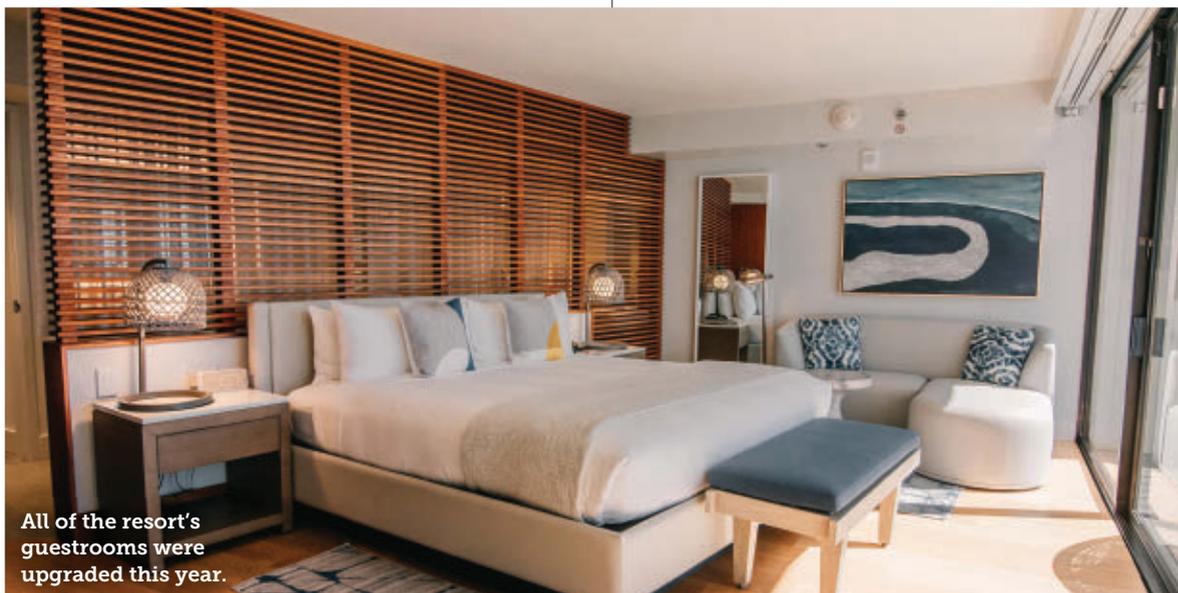
### How are Oahu holiday bookings shaping up?

Normally, most of the large resorts are close to filled. But I would say we are in the high 80s right now, in terms of occupancy. There are still air seats to Hawaii over the holidays, and I’m hoping there will be a little pick up, and we can add a few occupancy points.

### How does business look for early 2023?

Our near-future pace is certainly not as robust as it was in the summer, and I think it’s going to be a little bit muted until the economy turns around. With the stock market as it has been, along with the natural upswing in costs for the typical U.S. visitor, it’s [probably] harder for them to go on vacation. They’re saying, ‘Should I save a little money, or should I travel?’ And I think with that type of confusion, many are not traveling right now. I believe that will get better as the economy picks up. ●

**The Details:** *Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa* ([www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com))



All of the resort's guestrooms were upgraded this year.

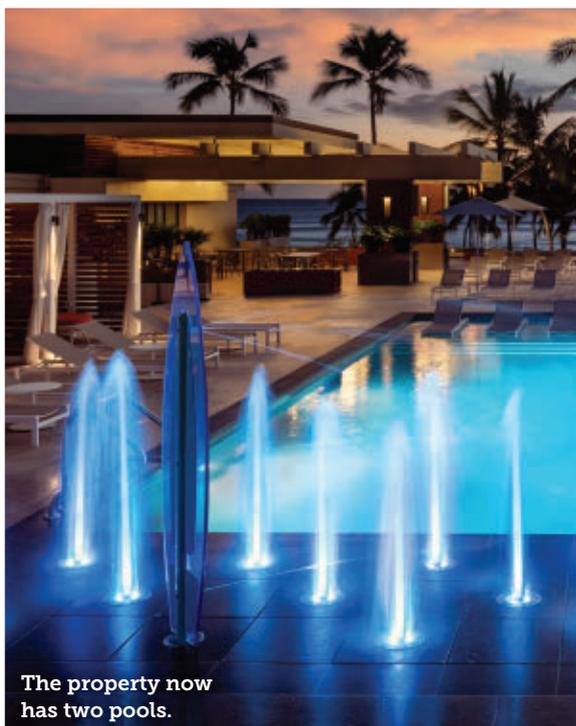
We spoke with Gibson earlier this month to learn more about upgrades at Waikiki Beach Marriott, and how Oahu’s vacation business is faring as the year wraps up.

### What should advisors know about the work finished earlier this year at Waikiki Beach Marriott?

Atrium Hotels, the ownership group, put \$100 million into the hotel. All 1,310 rooms have been upgraded. The whole deck of the third floor — comprised of restaurants, bars and active areas — is brand new and came out absolutely gorgeous.

### How were the guestrooms upgraded?

[The update included] new wall coverings in the rooms, redoing the bathrooms and [adding] new furniture. Each room in the hotel looks brand new. I think they did an excellent job.



The property now has two pools.



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Some cabins can be accessed from the open decks.



Guests can relax in the ship's library.

Star Clipper is a four-masted sailing ship.



CRUISE REVIEW

## Old-School Seafaring

*Star Clippers offers the romance of a sailing ship onboard its Star Clipper in the Mediterranean*

Peter Knego

**A** far cry from today's typical mega cruise ship, Star Clippers' dashing, four-masted, 166-guest Star Clipper is a floating haven of polished brass and freshly scrubbed teak. Under a billowing canopy of no fewer than 16 sails, this cruise experience dials back to a more genteel and relaxed sea-going era.

In recent years, Star Clipper has been based in the Far East. But after a stem-to-stern dry-docking, the ship joined its identical sister, Star Flyer, and the larger Royal Clipper in the Mediterranean Sea earlier this year.

While at sea on a recent sailing from Cannes (France) to Portofino (Italy), the French island of Corsica and the French Riviera, I enjoyed laying out on a deck chair and wading in one of two

small onboard pools. When the heat index got too high, I curled up with a good read in the breezy, sheltered Tropical Bar area. My favorite shipboard pastime, however, was hovering over surging, crystalline waters in the bowsprit net while more daring fellow guests climbed up to the 50-foot-high crow's nest platform on the foremast for spectacular views.

In the evenings, the vibe was all about cocktails and conversation, with old-fashioned diversions such as a lively music trivia quiz, a talent contest, a light show illuminating the sails and live music with drinking and dancing into the wee hours.

Highlights of our itinerary included stops at remote Plage Saint Antoine (in Corsica) and Plage de Pampelonne (in France), where we

tendered onshore to soak up the sun on pristine beaches. During visits to charming Corsican haunts such as L'Île Rousse and Calvi, as well as Cavalaire-sur-Mer in France, we had access to friendly little hamlets with shopping areas, restaurants and beaches. In better-known ports such as Portofino and St. Tropez, we marveled at the super yachts and chic stores, and enjoyed drinks at cafes with colorful stucco facades.

Given the summer heatwave, I loved jumping off the ship's platform and swimming alongside Star Clipper at anchor, while the staff unleashed a small flotilla of paddleboards, kayaks and single-sail craft for guests to enjoy. Masks and snorkels (though no fins) were also provided, free of charge.

Accommodations range from the ship's two 86-square-foot Inside Cabins to the terraced, 237-square-foot Owner's Cabin, which is perched in the recesses of the exquisitely sculpted schooner stern. The ship also features eight 156-square-foot Deck Cabins that are accessible from the open decks and are slightly larger than the most popular cabins, the 118-square-foot Outside Cabins, which feature a brass porthole and a marble-lined bathroom.

It's important to note that Star Clipper is not a great match for clients with accessibility needs. The ship has no elevators, and there are steep stairs and high doorway sills to navigate.

Buffet-style breakfast and lunch are included, along with a full-service, multicourse dinner, plus afternoon and midnight snacks. Specialty coffees are reasonably priced (\$2.50 for a cappuccino), and there is a complimentary 24-hour self-service coffee and tea station.

Star Clipper is offering Central America cruises to and from Costa Rica this winter, and will then head back to the Mediterranean in the spring of 2023. ●

**The Details:** *Star Clippers*  
([www.starclippers.com](http://www.starclippers.com))

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**Royal Caribbean's Vicki Freed on Breaking Into the Cruise Industry — and Meeting the Boss Who Helped Shape Her**

Royal Caribbean's Vicki Freed opens up about her foray into the cruise industry, her views on mentorship and what it was like working under the leadership of Bob Dickinson.



**Antoine Wilson on Life as a Travel Advisor, a Safari Operator and an Air Traffic Controller**

Antoine Wilson works six days per week as an air traffic controller at Miami International Airport; during his day off, he turns his attention to his second (and third) businesses: A.D. Elite Travels and Melanated Safaris.



**USTOA's Terry Dale on Farm Living, 9/11 and Transforming the 'T Word' (Touring)**

Dale reflects on his early vacations (to the Iowa State Fair), shares top career highlights and talks about how touring has evolved over the years.



**How ASTA's Eben Peck Is Protecting Travel Advisors**

Peck shares what it's like on the Hill in Washington, D.C., where he works hand-in-hand with members of Congress to make sure the rights of travel advisors are top of mind for lawmakers.



Hosted by Emma Weissmann,  
Managing Editor of *TravelAge West*

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Marc Mancini's

# Geography Bowl Challenge



### Scoring

- 160-240 POINTS:** You're a Geo genius!
- 100-150 POINTS:** You know your stuff.
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Marc Mancini

*A leading industry speaker and consultant, Marc Mancini and his team have created certification programs for CLIA, Marriott International, Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau, Holland America Line and Norwegian Cruise Line.*

### Where are you?

20 POINTS

1. What is the name of this iconic U.S. square?

### Do you know the way to the gateway?

20 POINTS

2. Which famous mountain on Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay is named for its distinctive shape?
3. In which European city is Parc de Montjuic?
4. What is the main island of the Cook Islands?

### Can you answer the add-on questions?

10 POINTS

In which U.S. city is this museum:

5. High Museum of Art, whose first location was the High family home?
6. The Barnes Foundation, started by Albert Barnes, an art collector?
7. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, whose founder was involved in the museum's design and artwork?

### Can you get an instant upgrade?

50 POINTS

8. Which town near Fairbanks,

Alaska, is known for year-round Christmas decorations and a Santa Claus House?

### Can you map your way in England?

20 POINTS

9. This major city and the adjoining town of Gateshead share the Quayside, known for its iconic bridges, nightlife and galleries.
10. This city's cathedral is where Jane Austen is buried.
11. After a five-year renovation, the bell in a very iconic clock tower

**ANSWER KEY:** 1. Jackson Square (20 points) 2. Sugarloaf (20 points) 3. Barcelona (20 points) 4. Rarotonga (20 points) 5. Atlanta (10 points) 6. Philadelphia (10 points) 7. Boston (10 points) 8. North Pole (50 points) 9. Newcastle upon Tyne (10 points) 10. Winchester (20 points) 11. London (20 points) 12. Canterbury (20 points)

Hosted by  
**Emma Weissmann,**  
TravelAge West's  
Managing  
Editor

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TravelAge West is published monthly except semi-monthly in March, May, August, and November by Northstar Travel Media, LLC, 301 Route 17 North, Suite 1150, Rutherford, NJ 07070. Canadian GST #123397457, ISSN #0041-1973, USPS #656-190. Subscription rates: Distributed without charge by request to full-time travel agency sales personnel in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. The cost of a print subscription to non-qualified subscribers is US \$129 or Can/Mex/For Air \$169. Copyright © Northstar Travel Media, LLC. Periodicals postage paid at Newark, N.J., and at additional mailing offices. Vol. 57 No. 16 December 12, 2022. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to TravelAge West, PO Box 2007 Skokie, IL 60076-2007. Phone: 800-231-3776 Fax: 847-291-4816 Email: TAW@Omeda.com.

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