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TREKKER

luxury travel magazine



TREKKER

TREKKER Luxury Travel Magazine is your gateway to luxury travel experiences both nationally and internationally. The magazine is brought to you by The Parkland Travel Club.

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What happens when you combine the expertise of a seasoned travel advisor and a professional designer/editor? You get a fresh perspective on travel in a post-Covid world.

Welcome to the premiere issue of TREKKER Luxury Travel Magazine and our first Travel Night of 2023.

Included in our inaugural issue are articles highlighting destinations featured by our guest speakers— Princess Cruises, Sandals Resorts, and Virgin Voyages. There's something for you whether cruising is your passion, or a fabulous land lover vacation is more your cup of tea.

We hope you enjoy an evening of travel information, drinks, and food. There will be raffles, giveaways, and special discounts to be had from the travel companies, your hosts, and our wonderful sponsors.

On a personal note, it's been an exciting design project to develop the new Parkland Travel Club logo, website, and social media marketing, as well as designing and editing this magazine.

Be sure to check out the website for our upcoming events. We will be welcoming a variety of travel companies every couple months, each with unique and special perspectives on luxury travel.

Cliff Commanday

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Upcoming Events

MARCH 7

Princess Cruises
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Ama Waterway River Cruises
Celebrity Cruises
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Alaska's Hidden Beauty

Bryan Zand



Alaska is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and if you haven't been, what are you waiting for?

Imagine living with no nighttime. Alaska is known for its long summer days, and in the northernmost parts of the state, the sun doesn't set for about eighty days.

Since Alaska is accessible year-round by air, land, or sea, you can choose to combine your mode of travel—arriving by air and departing by sea, or driving to Alaska and then boarding the ferry for the trip home. Each will offer a unique perspective: see the coastline by ferry or cruise ship, or catch glimpses of certain rare wildlife by taking the open road.

The northern lights, one of the world's Seven Natural Wonders, will be something magical. The aurora borealis is a natural display of iridescent color dancing across the night sky. They've rightfully earned a spot on many travelers' bucket lists. The best time to witness this magic is October through April.

The glaciers in Alaska are amazing! No matter where you are, you will be face to face with at least one of these icy mammoths. Highlights include places like Glacier Bay National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and named a Cruise Wonder of the World by Condé Nast Traveler. Farther north is the breathtaking Tracy Arm Fjord and College Fjord and Hubbard Glacier.

You can do more than just look. You can touch, glide, or soar above them since all the cruise ships offer optional excursions for further glacial exploration. They often combine helicopter/hiking tours that put you square on the surface of these massive ice beds.

Take a flightseeing tour over the glaciers, kayak around them, or even ride across one on a dogsled.

Alaska is a dream for watching nature. Most of us haven't had the opportunity to see moose grazing in vast meadows, whales frolicking in glistening waters, or bears in their native habitat. In Alaska, all that is possible—including glimpsing Denali National Park's Big Five: brown bears, wolves, moose, Dall sheep, and caribou.

Venture north to catch the sight of a mammoth forty-ton humpback whale breaking the surface of the water for air, or see something stir in the brush as a huge moose rises from rest and wanders off. Moments like this only happen in Alaska—the Great Land.

Alaska has some of America's most stunning national gems—awe-inspiring Denali National Park, home to North America's tallest peak, 20,310-foot Denali; Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, larger than the country of Switzerland; Glacier Bay National Park with towering Margerie Glacier; and beautiful Kenai Fjords National Park, with its glaciers and abundant marine life.

Get a glimpse of the welcoming personality of the Great Land by sailing into ports along the Inside Passage. Peek into the fascinating gold rush history that left its mark on the region's streets, saloons, and storefronts in cities like Skagway, Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau. Visit Native villages, or go dogsledding with a real musher. The stories of The Inside Passage will expand your understanding of its culture, history, and lifestyle.

The beauty of Alaska awaits you. Hurry and plan your Alaskan adventure by land or by sea. You will not regret it!



Jamie and Bryan Zand are professional travel advisors at Jamie Zand & Associates Cruise Planners. Visit familytravel.com

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Jamie Zand is an experienced travel consultant who has traveled extensively and is in the Millionaire Group of travel agents within the Cruise Planners company.

Jamie has built a reputation for patience and planning when dealing with her clients.

"Travel is very personal, and I try and match people with the travel that best suits them. Each cruise company, each travel company, each resort is very different, and so are my clients. Of course, a person's budget affects their travel limitations and expectations, but I try and make sure that all my clients get the best value possible."

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Ciao, Roma

Bryan Zand

Rome, The Eternal City, is without a doubt one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Every year, millions of tourists come from everywhere to admire the treasures and masterpieces of Roman art and architecture.

The best times of the year to visit Rome are April, May, and late September through October.

Many Mediterranean cruises depart out of Rome via Civitavecchia, making the coastal city a perfect add-on to any pre/post cruise.

Tourists need at least 3-4 days to spend in Rome to see all the major attractions. Renting a car to get around Italy is a challenge, but driving around Rome is dangerous and I would not



recommend unless you have nerves of steel and the reflexes of a professional race car driver.

Thankfully, Rome has an efficient citywide transportation system, plus Uber.

Rome can accommodate any level of accommodations you're looking for, with all price ranges covered. There are many older, historic boutique-style hotels as well as more modern 5-star luxury resorts. To fully soak up the history of this amazing city, consider staying near or in the historical area of Rome.

There's one thing in Rome you won't have to worry about: finding a good place to eat. Roman food is a popular, yet simple one. While not generally sophisticated or elaborate, it is generous, varied, and rich in flavors and character. And yes, there's pizza too!

From family-run trattorias and pizzerias to fancier, hip restaurants, Rome knows how to satiate your hunger and satisfy her visitors with her savory specialties.

You should always plan ahead when you travel, especially when it comes to seeing the sights in Rome. You can tour by yourself, in a small or large group. Visiting the Vatican is typically at least a half day, but many feel it should warrant a full day. Having a guide with you really enhances the experience. A good tour will also skip you to the front of the line.

The traditional historical venues—the Colosseum, Pantheon, Forum, and St Peter's Basilica—really bring you the truest sense of ancient Rome. There are passes that you can purchase to get into these attractions, or, of course, you can book a private guide who is properly trained to make all that history come to life.

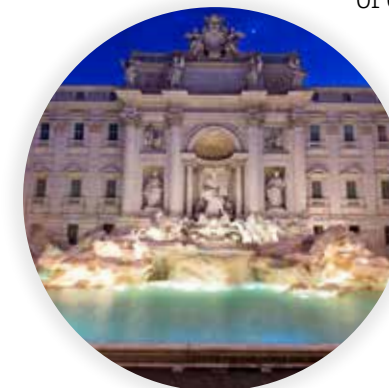
The paintings and sculptures in Rome's churches, cathedrals, museums, and galleries will be awe-inspiring.

All the great names of Western art are covered, from Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling to frescoes by Raphael and paintings that show the skill of Caravaggio, to the glorious fountains of Bernini.

Of course, the most iconic example of the beauty of Rome is Salvi's Tevi Fountain. Dominating the small, cobbled avenue in which it sits, the fountain is an outrageous example of over-the-top Baroque sculpture.

You can never spend enough time in Rome. The Eternal City's historical charm along with a visit to the Vatican make a visit to Rome a must. A bucket list destination!

Booking a properly trained private guide can make all the history come to life



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Jamaica. Get All Right.

Bryan Zand and Cliff Commanday

Everyone should visit Jamaica at least once in their lifetime.

Jamaica's motto is "Out of many, one people." It is one of the most culturally rich and diverse countries in the world, from the music, food, dressing, and other forms of Jamaican heritage.

Whether you're on a cruise or staying at an amazing resort, Jamaica is the ideal location to spend your vacation or honeymoon. It is known for its happy and friendly people, mouthwatering dishes, exotic fruits, vibrant culture, clean air, tropical temperature, breathtaking landscapes, beautiful beaches, and mineral baths. Wow, that was a lot of commas. And there's more.

Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean Island, located between North and South America, and sits close to Central America. It has some of the best beaches in the Caribbean, has eye-widening natural sites including cascading waterfalls and lagoons, and produces one of the rarest coffees in the world.

Bob Marley, the world-renown cultural icon, helped put Jamaica and reggae on the map. With roots tracing back to the late '40s with calypso, ska, and jazz, reggae is still the popular urban music you'll hear streaming through the streets.

Be ready to eat some tasty food. You can find jerk dishes in restaurants and at street food stalls all over the island.

Jerk is a style of cooking where cuts of meat and seafood are slathered in an allspice and scotch bonnet marinade and smoked over hot coals.

There are so many things to do in Jamaica, from immersion in street culture, interacting with nationals, learning the Patois/Jamaican Creole language, art walks, concerts, tours, and excursions.



Jamaica is known as the land of wood and water, with attractions both inland and off the coasts. You can go hiking, climbing the Blue Mountains, rafting on the Martha Brae or Rio Grande, camping out in the forest, connecting with nature, and meet indigenous people.

You will be amazed by exotic wildlife you've never seen. Nature lovers will have boundless opportunities to learn about Jamaican flora and fauna.

Visit Jamaica and explore the flavors of the Caribbean

Negril Beach, also known as Seven Mile Beach, is one of the most popular in the world. White water cascades down a 180ft (55m) flight of natural rock stairs at Dunn's River Falls, near Ocho Rios. Visitors can climb these stairs, stopping to soak in natural pools and shower in the falls' foamy water along the way.

If scaling the falls isn't adventurous enough for you, there's also a zip-line circuit that features seven zip-lines and four hanging bridges.

So come live it up—Jamaican style. The heartbeat of the world.



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