

Traveling from A to Z in 2018

hat are the top trends for traveling the world in 2018? New destinations and a desire to connect with local people are the focus for the new age traveler. Experiences, not just seeing the sights, are the keys to today's travel choices. Opportunities to meet locals, wander neighborhoods, and make spontaneous discoveries are great ways to discover a destination. There are new travel suppliers who specialize in "walks" where you can shop with a chef in local markets; explore a city with a local guide who takes you through quieter streets and local restaurants; visit museums and monuments before they open, or after closing, with specially designed tours for greater understanding. Whether it be New York or Italy, you can be so much more than a tourist.

ANTARCTICA AND ALASKA

Try a different climate and terrain, such as Iceland or Antarctica, or cruise to the Galapagos Islands for a truly unique experience. Cuzco is the Inca capital of Peru, and the gateway to Machu Picchu, located high in the Andes Mountains, where you can have spectacular views while hiking these ancient trails. Another

destination which continues to grow in popularity is Thailand, which lies in the heart of Southeast Asia, making it a natural gateway to Indochina, Myanmar, and Southern China. There is never a dull day in Thailand; a land of magic and mystery that attracts those who seek advantage and romance. Blessed with beautiful natural resources and extraordinary culture, it is no wonder we want to meet these fun-loving people.

Push beyond your comfort zone with travel experiences such as zip-lining in Costa Rica, hot air ballooning over the landscapes of South Africa, swim with dolphins and manta rays in the clear blue waters of Tahiti, take a helicopter tour of the Waimea Canyon in Kauai, or harness your own dog sled team for a thrilling ride on the glaciers in Alaska.

Train Travel is also becoming increasingly popular as you witness the amazing scenery en route. With new rail journeys through the United States and Canada, you will glide past gentle prairie fields, rugged lake country, and picturesque towns to the snowy peaks of the majestic Rockies. Experience the heart of the Scottish Highlands where you travel through landscapes of pine-clad mountains, reflected in mirror-still lochs. Relax by picturesque Lake Como, or thrill to the Alpine scenery through the Gotthard Pass, or overnight through the landscapes of Australia as kangaroos jump past your train's window.

FROM ZEBRAS TO NEW ZEALAND

Travel with family to strengthen bonds. Multigenerational travel is growing stronger every year. This year, consider renting a villa in Italy, a yacht in Greece, take a family safari in Africa, or camp under the stars in deluxe tented resorts. There is so much more to family vacations than theme parks. Enjoy the activities and relationship-building opportunities of family bonding through travel.

Sue Shimkus, president of Lake Zurich Travel, and her professional staff know the best ways to visit these places, having created custom trips since 1992. Lake Zurich Travel is located at 461 S. Rand Rd. in Lake Zurich. Visit www.LZTravel.com, or call 847-438-5551.

