

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

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# Traveler

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# Intel

OUR TRAVEL  
TIPS, TRICKS, AND  
MISCELLANY

A GUIDE  
TO TRAVELING BETTER  
THIS MONTH

## GOOD NEWS

Seems like every month brings a new, too-good-to-be-true airfare sale. Next up: Barcelona! Thanks to upstart airlines like Level, Norwegian, and Wow Air, round trips are crazy cheap—less than \$500. “And it’s not just new airlines with lower fares,” says Amanda Festa of Cheap Flights. “You’ll find similar rates on Aer Lingus, American, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, Lufthansa, Swiss, and TAP Portugal.”

## BAD NEWS

Well, it was good while it lasted. After years of adding flights between the U.S. and the Gulf—and on to Africa, India, and Southeast Asia—Emirates has cut back on service to five U.S. cities, including Boston and Seattle. It’s blaming the new in-cabin electronics ban, which it says impacted “consumer interest.” At least Emirates is keeping the much-loved New York–Milan and the new Newark–Athens flights for summer.

## UNBELIEVABLE NEWS

Prepare to be squished beyond belief. American is about to cram seats even closer together in an effort to sell more tickets. The “seat pitch,” or distance between a point on one seat and the same on another, will shrink from 31 inches to 29 in some rows of the airline’s new 737 planes (makes you really appreciate JetBlue and its dignified 33 inches). There’s more: The bathrooms on these new jets will be smaller too. Not cool, American. Not cool.



## Our Fave New Neighborhoods Are on the Water

These forward-thinking cities are investing billions to turn old docklands from no-go zones to the places you’ll actually want to hang out.

	WHAT'S HAPPENING	WHY IT'S WORTH THE TRIP	HOW TO DO IT
Oslo	In 2008, the Oslo Opera House opened, establishing the harbor area of Bjørvika (above) as the city’s cultural hub. Four years later, Renzo Piano’s Astrup Fearnley museum cemented its rep.	You’ll see works by Eliasson, Koons, and Sherman at the Fearnley, but make a plan to go back in 2020 for the openings of the National and Edvard Munch museums.	Spend the night next door to the Fearnley at Norway’s best design hotel, The Thief. (A planned sister property by hotelier Petter Stordalen should arrive by 2019.)
Rio de Janeiro	Rio’s city council spent eight years (and \$2.5 billion) to transform an old Guanabara Bay pier into the Porto Maravilha museum quarter.	Santiago Calatrava’s cantilevered, straight outta sci-fi Museum of Tomorrow has impressive interactive exhibits on the Anthropocene era.	After hitting the Museum of Tomorrow, walk across Mauá Square to the four-year-old Museu de Arte do Rio for a look at Debret portraits—and a <i>caprioteska</i> at the rooftop bar at sunset.
Sydney	The once-industrial Millers Point area north of Darling Harbor is now a stunning stretch of parkland that’s been renamed Barangaroo in honor of an Aboriginal leader.	This area was once home to the Gadigal people, and it’s filled with both petroglyphs and contemporary works by native artists.	Hit Manly Beach in the morning, then hop a ferry to Barangaroo’s new terminal before walking northwest to the Walumil Lawns, overlooking the world’s most ‘grammable harbor.
Washington, D.C.	Locals avoided the underutilized Southwest Waterfront for years, but that’ll change when the first phase of a \$2 billion private development, The Wharf, opens this fall.	At least 20 restaurants are planned, many by D.C.’s hottest chefs like Fabio Trabocchi and Nick Stefanelli. Expect outdoor seating and menus heavy on Chesapeake seafood.	Go after a day on the National Mall, a few blocks north. Start with East Coasters on the half shell at Hank’s Oyster Bar, then do dinner at Del Mar as the sun sets over the Potomac.

Photograph by Iwan Baan

## Ombudsman: Keeping Your Cool

**Q** Last summer, I booked a Mitsubishi Outlander from Advantage Rent a Car at Newark International and drove off before discovering the air conditioning didn't work. All weekend I tried contacting the office to report the problem but never got through to anyone. When I returned the car, I mentioned the issue, and they made a note to have the AC fixed. A month later, they hit me with a \$757.71 repair charge—even though I was the one sweating it out in their busted car. Shouldn't they be apologizing for the hassle—not sending me a bill? —*Samir D., Joplin, Mo.*

**A** Sure seems that way, but consider Advantage's perspective: Without a prompt report of the problem—your unanswered calls notwithstanding—there's no way for the company to know when exactly the AC stopped working (and no way to quickly rectify the problem). Ombudsman, however, uncovered a work order regarding the vehicle's broken AC that predated your rental. Presented with this information, Advantage dropped its charge and apologized "for any inconvenience" this claim may have caused.

## TRAVEL SMARTER THIS SUMMER

### Beat That Electronics Ban

The Microsoft Universal Foldable Keyboard, which connects via Bluetooth to just about any device (including iPhones), is just small enough to be allowed on flights that don't permit laptops aboard (\$99).

### Take Way Better Photos

They sound geeky, but 360-degree cameras—like the supersimple-to-use Ricoh Theta S—capture insanely detailed panoramas with a single click of the shutter (\$350).

### Stay Connected Anywhere

The Skyroam hotspot lets you get online from just about everywhere—on ski slopes in the Andes, on a train in Peru's Sacred Valley, on an ATV in the desert outside Marrakech. We know because we actually road tested it in all three places (\$99, service from \$8 a day).

### Be Party-Ready

'Tis the season for beach picnics and impromptu grill sessions. Stock up on Union Wine Co.'s new fizzy rosé—it's cleverly packed in pool- and beach-friendly aluminum cans and tastes just as good as the stuff that comes in bottles (\$7 a can).

# 30

DOLLARS

THAT'S HOW MUCH U.S. CASH YOU'LL NEED, PER PERSON, WHEN YOU LAND IN BOTSWANA TO COVER A NEW TOURISM-DEVELOPMENT LEVY. CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED, BUT SAFARI EXPERTS WE'VE SPOKEN WITH SAY YOU'LL GET THROUGH THE LINE FASTER WITH EXACT CHANGE.



## TWO TRIPS IN ONE, VIA SEAPLANE

Haven't made Labor Day plans yet? Gurney's, which has chic waterfront properties in Montauk, New York, and Newport, Rhode Island, has you covered with a turnkey weekend itinerary out of New York that includes one night in an oceanview room at each hotel and flights there and back by Cessna Caravan Amphibian seaplane (\$2,250 per person).



## 85,000 Miles Logged in the Last Year

Jean-Michel Cousteau, president of the Ocean Futures Society and son of Jacques, on what he'll never fly without and the best drinks spot in his hometown of Santa Barbara.

**MY FAVORITE AIRLINE HAS TO BE Air Tahiti Nui. Because I've flown them four times a year for the last 15 years, I know many of the crew by their first names.**

**I NEVER FLY WITHOUT my reusable Hydro Flask water bottle, so I can avoid those single-use plastic ones. It even has a filter, which comes in handy in remote places where the water might not be safe to drink.**

**NO MATTER HOW LONG THE FLIGHT, I'D NEVER watch a movie. I'd much rather catch up on reading. I just finished my good friend John Englander's *High Tide on Main Street*. It's about the realities of a drastically changing climate and how that's affecting us right now. It's a call to action.**

**WHEN I'M HOSTING OUT-OF-TOWNERS, we'll do cocktails on the deck at the Belmont El Encanto in Santa Barbara. On the clearest of days, you can see three of the four northern Channel Islands. When it's just my better half, Nan, and I, we'll go to Chaucer's Bookstore, then walk next door to our favorite Italian restaurant, Via Maestra 42. The ricotta gnocchi is outstanding.**

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