

# WE ❤️ OUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

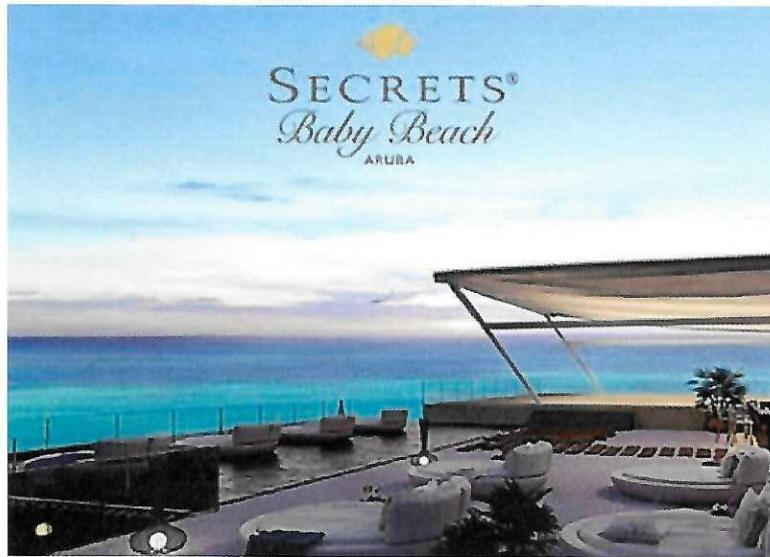
May is travel agents' appreciation month and I recently had a client tell me that she didn't believe all the work that is involved to make their trip something to be remembered. Home Town Travel has been in business since 1985 and strives to make every trip that memorable. Nancy & Tara

On to May 16-Today is Biographer's Day, Endangered Species, International Pickle, Love a Tree, and NASCAR Days. National Bike to Work, Coquilles St. Jacques, Mimosa, Nickle, Pizza Party Days and we end with Wear Purple for Peace Day. Weekly celebrations include Craft Beer, Armed Forces, Food Allergy Awareness, Hospital Weeks and the Frog Jumping Jubilee in Calaveras County, CA. National Bike Week, Etiquette Week, Return to Work Week, Stuttering Awareness Week, Salvation Army Week, Reading is Fundamental Week and the Biggest Week in American Birding.

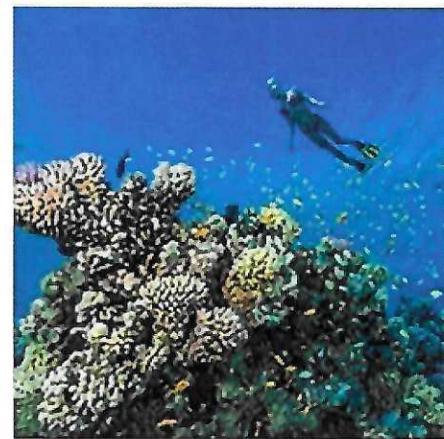
Famous Birthdays: (1908) Henry Fonda, American actor, singer and producer (On Gilden Pond (d.1982), (1919) Liberace, Polish-American singer, pianist and actor (Batman) (d.1987), (1928) Billy Martin, American baseball player and coach (NY Yankees, Oakland A's) (d.1989), (1953) Pierce Brosnan, Irish actor and producer (Remington Steele, James Bond movies), (1955) Debras Winger, American actress (An Officer and a Gentleman), (1959) Mare Winningham, American actress and singer (St. Elmo's Fire), (1966) Janet Jackson, American singer, songwriter, dancer and actress, (1986) Megan Fox, American actress and model (Transformers). Deaths: (1956) H.B. Reese, American candy maker who created Reese's Peanut Butter Cups (b.1876). (1957) Eliot Ness, American federal agent who was the leader of the team nicknamed The Untouchables (b.1903), (1984) Andy Kaufman, American comedian, actor and screenwriter (Taxi) (b.1949), (1990) Sammy Davis, Jr., American actor, singer and dancer (b.1925), (1990) Jim Henson, American puppeteer, director, screenwriter and producer (Sesame Street, Muppet Show) (b.1936). Famous Weddings: (1770) Marie Antoinette marries future King Louis XVI of France, (1836) US writer/poet Edgar Allan Poe marries his 13 year old first cousin Virginia Eliza Clemm and (1987) David Crosby of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young marries Jan Dance.

Today in History: (1817) Steamboat service begins on the Mississippi River, (1866) Charles Elmer Hires invents root beer, (1868) the US Senate fails to impeach President Andrew Johnson by one vote, (1891) George A. Hormel & Co. debut SPAM, (1918) the US Congress passes the Sedition Act of 1918 making criticism of the government during wartime an imprisonable offense. (1920) In Rome, Pope Benedict XV canonizes Joan of Arc, (1965) the Campbells Soup Company introduces Spaghetti-O's, (1986) Top Gun staring Tom Cruise premiers, (1988) US Surgeon C. Everett Coop reports that the addictive properties of nicotine are similar to those of heroin and cocaine, (2013) Bill Gates becomes the world's richest man for the second time (net worth \$72.7 billion).

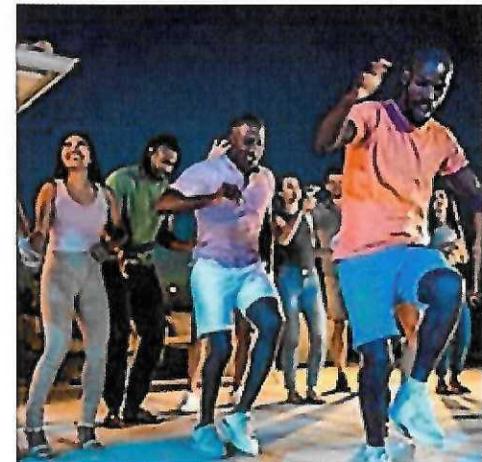
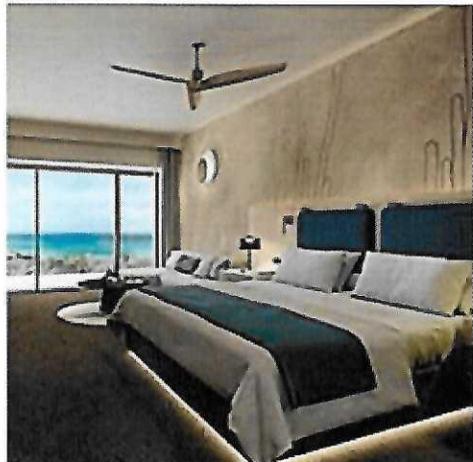
Today in Music: (1946) The musical Annie Get Your Gun starring Ethel Merman debuts in New York City, (1964) My Guy by Mary Wells hits #1, (1966) Pet Sounds by the Beach Boys is released, (1970) the Déjà vu album from Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young hits #1 on the album charts, (1975) Silly Love Songs by Paul McCartney and Wings hits #1, (1980) Paul McCartney releases his McCartney II album, (1987) With or Without You by U2 hits #1 on the US singles chart, and (2009) Together Thjrough Life from Bob Dylan hits #1 on the US album charts. Today in Sports: (1869) Cincinnati Reds play their 1<sup>st</sup> baseball game and win 41-7, (1914) the first National Challenge Cup final is played (soccer), (1914) the American Horseshoe Pitchers Association is organized in Kansas City, (1927) NY Yankee Bob Meusel steals 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and home! (1975) the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest is Junko Tabei and in (1985) Michael Jordan is named NBA Rookie of the Year.



Nestled on the serene sands of Baby Beach Bay and just a short drive from San Nicolas, Secrets® Baby Beach Aruba offers an adults-only haven wrapped in natural beauty, crystalline waters and pristine beaches. Whether unwinding by the pool, dining under the stars or biking through Aruba's vibrant landscapes, this island escape is a retreat into luxury.



Sip handcrafted cocktails while lounging on Bali beds under the sun, indulge in gourmet dining that will excite the taste buds and unwind with endless pampering and world-class service. Explore Aruba's colorful reefs, enjoy CrossFit on the beach or dance as the Caribbean nightlife awakens in the on-site casino—there is something for everyone. The exquisite architecture and elegant amenities inside each of the resort's 304 rooms and suites offer an oasis of luxury, and Preferred Club suites feature private plunge pools for the ultimate secluded escape.



# GROUPS FOR 2025-2026

**OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA, NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025**, with Collette Vacations. This is a small group departure for Home Town Travel with a maximum of 24 passengers on this adventure. These legendary isles are nestled amongst the deep blue water of the Mediterranean. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian Maltese and Sicilian towns. This eleven-night tour begins with a four-night stay in Malta with a ferry to Sicily where you will stay three nights in Ragusa and three nights in Taormina. This package includes round trip transportation to Newark airport from our office, round trip air from Newark airport with an overnight flight to Malta, 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners, professional escort throughout the trip and all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person based on double occupancy is \$5,399.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional and at a rate of \$549.00. Please call for more information.

**MARCH 8, 2026 to APRIL 8, 2026—31 DAY PANAMA CANAL, INCA & SOUTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY ABOARD HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM**. Holland America's first Vista-class ship, the Oosterdam recently emerged from dry dock with exciting updates including completely refurbished suites and new lounge, dining and entertainment venues, such as Music Walk with Lincoln Center Stage, B.B. King's Blues Club and Billboard on board. Guests can choose from delectable specialty restaurants, hone culinary Skillswith America's Test Kitchen and thrill to BBC Earth experiences. Embark in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires where pre-cruise packages will be available soon. Visit the penguins in Patagonia as you get ready to sailpast Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan. We then sail from Ushuaia and cruise the dramatic coast of Chilewith stops in Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. Sail through Glacier Alley enroute to a full transit of the Panama Canal. Inside cabins start at \$4,999.00 per person double. Available additions include Holland America's "Have It All" package which includes beverage package, three specialty dining venues, \$300 per person shore excursion credit, wi-fi and \$250 per person on board credit. This package is available for \$55 per person/per day. Prepaid gratuities are available at \$17/day. Other categories are available. Call for other rates and more information.

**MARCH 13-26, 2026—TWELVE NIGHT VIETNAM & THAILAND CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SOLSTICE**  
This bucket list trip starts in Hong Kong and visits Hanoi (Halong Bay), Hue/Danang, Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), Bangkok/Laemchabang and Ko Samui Thailand, and disembarking in Singapore. Pre and post land packages will be available. Cruise includes balcony accommodations (V1), all current port and government taxes, beverage package, gratuities, and Wi-Fi. **SAVE OVER \$1,500 PER CABIN**. Rate per person based on double \$3,350.00. A deposit of \$900/cabin is required to reserve your cabin. Final payment is not due until December 1, 2025.

## **ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN ICELAND—MARCH 13-18, 2026**

Fly round trip to the "Land of Fire and Ice" from Newark to Reykjavik on Icelandair. End this exciting holiday at an Irish pub after visiting the Viking World Museum, the Blue Lagoon, the Golden Circle, the Sky Lagoon, Fridheimar (greenhouse and stable visit with lunch), Kerid, Skalholt and the opportunity to possibly see the Northern Lights. Our tour includes: round trip air on Icelandair (including all current taxes, fees and fuel surcharges), four nights hotel accommodations at the FossHotel Reykjavik (including all current taxes and fees), full buffet breakfast daily, heavy continental breakfast on the morning of arrival, all admission fees for mentioned features. \$2,295.00 per person double

## **THE CULTURAL TREASURES OF JAPAN WITH COLLETTE VACATIONS—MAY 10-23, 2026**

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun". Explore ancient and modern Japanese cultures firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty. This amazing 14-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfers to/from Newark Airport from Home Town Travel, 18 meals, all accommodations, sightseeing with entrance fees, transportation within Japan and a professional tour guide throughout the trip. Some highlights of this tour will include Tokyo, Asakusa, Sensoji Shrine, Tea Ceremony, Ginza, Lake Ashi cruise, Matsumioto Castle, Sake tasting and Hida beef dinner, Kyoto, Bullet Train and Hiroshima. Stop by the office or call for some moire information

# The Best French Toast Casserole

There's no need to get up early on the weekend to make brunch for a crowd. With this rich, custardy French toast casserole, nearly all the prep is done in advance. Simply assemble and refrigerate overnight. About an hour before brunch time, just pop it into the oven. Whip up a fast and easy banana-caramel topping and bask in the praise of your well-fed guests.

**Level:** Easy

**Total:** 9 hr (includes resting time)

**Active:** 20 min

**Yield:** 6 to 8 servings

## Ingredients:

### Casserole:

Unsalted butter for greasing pan, at room temperature

1 loaf day-old brioche (about 1 pound)

6 large eggs

2 cups heavy cream

1 cup whole milk

2 tablespoons packed light brown sugar

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

Kosher salt

### Topping:

1/2 cup unsalted butter

1/2 cup packed light brown sugar

1/2 cup pure maple syrup

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Kosher salt

4 ripe-but-firm bananas, sliced about 1/4 inch thick

1/2 cup walnuts, roughly chopped

## Directions:

- 1 Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
- 2 For the casserole: Trim the ends from 1 loaf day-old brioche (about 1 pound) and cut into ten 1-inch thick slices. Cut each slice in half diagonally to make two triangles from each piece. (If the bread is fresh, dry it out a bit. Place the slices in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake at 300 degrees F for 10 minutes, flipping halfway through.)
- 3 Whisk together the eggs, cream, milk, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a large bowl until well blended. Dip each triangle of bread in the custard, lightly coating each side. Shingle the pieces in the prepared pan, overlapping slightly.
- 4 Pour any remaining custard over the bread slices. Cover the dish with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours or up to overnight.
- 5 When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Remove the casserole from the refrigerator and let rest 15 to 20 minutes at room temperature before baking. Remove the plastic wrap and bake until the casserole is golden and puffed and the custard is set, 45 to 50 minutes.
- 6 For the topping: bring the butter, sugar and syrup to a boil in a medium nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook until the butter is melted and the mixture begins to thicken, about 2 minutes. Add the vanilla, a pinch of salt, and the walnuts, stirring to coat. Turn off the heat and add the sliced bananas, stirring to coat evenly. Spoon the desired amount of the banana-syrup mixture over the casserole and serve any additional on the side.



**NCL** NORWEGIAN  
CRUISE LINE



## Dive Into Great Stirrup Cay's Enhancements

From pristine beaches to soaring ziplines, Great Stirrup Cay has something for everyone - And it's about to have even MORE starting winter 2025! Soon, you can dip your toes in the all-new heated pool, disembark in style from Great Stirrup Cay's new state-of-the-art pier and arrivals area, take in stunning views from the new panoramic bridge, and much more! With a history of delivering guests variety of choice and freedom and flexibility to design their very best vacation, NCL has also confirmed additional plans to be revealed in the future, highlighting how NCL will deliver more.

### New Pier

A state-of-the-art, multi-ship pier will make arriving (and departing) a breeze so everyone can enjoy Norwegian's private island.



### New Pool

A pool the size of a cruise ship? We had to! Our new 28,000 sq. ft. heated pool features multiple swim-up bars and is designed to impress.



### New Arrivals Area & Tram

The new arrivals area will welcome guests to our private island experience and the new tram will make getting around easy for everyone.

# Where Are the World's Most Luxurious Airports?

Going to the airport can be an exciting part of going on holiday. Once you're through security it seems as though all time stops while you sample designer perfumes, have a breakfast mimosa and try on new sunglasses – until you must race to your gate!

However, some airports are certainly better than others when it comes to the level of comfort. With delays, and layovers that can feel like they go on forever, comfort is the top priority – particularly if you're an over 70's traveler and hoping to get to your destination feeling relaxed and ready to enjoy your holiday. With all of this in mind, we decided to investigate which of the world's airports offer the most luxurious experience, giving travelers the utmost comfort before they take to the skies.

We analyzed over 1,800 airports before whittling them down to a shortlist of 69, based on how many had a significant selection of passenger lounges available (minimum 10). Each airport was then scored on several factors, from how many designer shops it has, to how many 4- and 5-star hotels are located nearby. Each airport was also given a score based on how many lounges are available to passengers, and whether you can find a champagne bar or caviar house to rest at while waiting to board.

Dubai International Airport reigns supreme as the world's most luxurious.

The world's most luxurious airport, according to our rankings, is in the United Arab Emirates. Dubai airport, which sees 90 million passengers transit through it per year, lands in first place as the go-to airport for anyone seeking a luxurious start to their layover.

Following closely behind is the UK's Heathrow Airport, located in London, while Doha International Airport in Qatar completes the top three.

The 20 airports that offer the best luxury experience:

1	Dubai International Airport	11	New York John F. Kennedy International Airport
2	London Heathrow Airport	12	Incheon International Airport
3	Hamad International Airport	13	Munich Airport
4	Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport	14	Zurich Airport
5	Sydney International Airport	15	Tokyo Haneda International Airport
6	Singapore Changi Airport	16	Los Angeles International Airport
7	Suvarnabhumi International Airport	17	Toronto Pearson International Airport
8	Hong Kong International Airport	18	Beijing Capital International Airport
9	Frankfurt Airport	19	Osaka Kansai International Airport
10	Narita International Airport	20	Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport

Dubai as a destination is well known across the world for luxury and wealth, so it's not too surprising that the airport ranks as the most luxurious on the globe. The airport is the fastest-growing aviation hub in the world, and it even has its own 5-star hotel located inside the airport itself. With zen gardens, an outdoor swimming pool, a gym, cinemas and a bounty of restaurants – this is one airport that will certainly leave you feeling refreshed ahead of jumping on your flight. The factor that clinched the win for Dubai Airport is the number of four- and five-star hotels within a three-mile radius of the airport, with over 70 luxury hotels for travelers to choose from.

## London Heathrow Airport

London has four different airports but Heathrow, which is often recognized as the busiest airport in Europe. Heathrow scored a bounty of points for having both one of the largest numbers of lounges to choose from, while also having the majority of the world's most luxury shopping brands available for passengers to browse while they wait to board.



## Doha International Airport

Qatar airport is home to the world's third most luxurious airport, and believe it or not, the airport alone is about a third of the size of Doha, the city it's located in. This beautiful airport has a roof shaped like a wave, while the interior is designed with an aquatic theme. Water features run throughout, and all represent the gentle waves of the Arabian gulf. Doha's airport also scored highly for the number of four- and five-star hotels within its vicinity, as well as having many luxury brands like Hermès and Montblanc for shopping-hungry passengers.

## Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport

Handling 70 million passengers each year, Paris' main airport is the second busiest in Europe, after Heathrow. One of the most renowned airports worldwide, U2 even filmed their music video for "Beautiful Day" at this globally renowned airport. The airport scored highly on the sheer number of luxury brands available for perusal, from Louis Vuitton to Yves Saint Laurent and Bvlgari, but also plays host to its own onsite hotel, and fantastic transport links into the European city of love.

## Sydney International Airport

Sitting down under, is the first Oceanic airport in the rankings. Sydney's international airport completes the top five most luxurious worldwide airports, with top marks for luxury brands available across its terminals, the likes of which include Cartier, Rolex and Armani. This luxury airport is the world's oldest continually operating commercial international airport and impresses passengers with a runway that extends into Botany Bay – with runway lights positioned on the water making landings here incredibly picturesque.

# Resorts with the best waterparks and activities

### Royalton Splash Riviera Cancun or Royalton Splash Punta Cana:

Dive into fun with 14 slides, 2 lazy rivers, and splash pads. At the Cancun property, families will experience a recently renovated water park, and expansive kids' club with family-friendly hours. Plus, the first kid (2-12) and teen (13-17) stay free.



**Nickelodeon Riviera Maya:** Join SpongeBob SquarePants, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and many more Nickelodeon friends along with Aqua Nick, a sprawling 6-acre waterpark with adventures for all ages.

**The Grand at Moon Palace Cancun:** Experience a waterpark extravaganza where kids and teens 17 and younger can stay, play, and eat for free when with a paying adult.

**Planet Hollywood Cancun:** Enjoy a lazy river, mini-golf, movie theater, and trampoline park at this star-studded resort. One child (12 or younger) and one teen (17 or younger) stay and eat free when with two paying adults.



**Royalton Blue Waters Montego Bay:** Families can spend quality time together with activities and adventures for all ages, from water sports and nightly shows to creative cuisine, poolside cabanas, a lazy river, and more. And, one kid (12 and younger) and one teen (17 and younger) can stay and eat free.