

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN TO SEE WOMEN

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Above: Becky Kieha, the first female overland truck driver in East Africa, leads tours in Kenya for Intrepid Travel.

Women's travel used to mean that the travelers were all women and that was pretty much it. Nowadays, women are the focus of many travel experiences, with more and more tours aiming to shine a light on female empowerment in other parts of the world. For instance, Intrepid Travel's launch of Women's Expeditions, which started with trips to the Middle East, proved so popular that it grew from four to 36 departures last year, making it among the most popular category in the company's history. This year, the outfitter has added new Women's Expedition tours in Kenya, Nepal, India, and Turkey. The tours, all led by female guides, explore the customs, food, challenges, and lives of local women. They all include experiences that would otherwise be off-limits on

regular departures, such as swimming on a female-only beach in Antalya, Turkey, or celebrating the female-only Gangaur Festival in Rajasthan, India. The 10-day Kenya expedition (\$3,215 per person), led by Becky Kieha, the first female overland truck driver in East Africa, visits women, meets with female wildlife rangers and includes a cooking class. The trip to Turkey (\$1,720 per person for 12 days) includes an afternoon with displaced Syrian women, a trip to sea with a female captain and participation in Gold Day Eskisehir, a day for women to socialize and help a friend in need. An all-female hiking crew explores Nepal (\$1,895 for 13 days), and in India (\$1,215 per person for 12 days), travelers will join the Gangaur Festival, explore Jaipur with the female rickshaw drivers, and visit shops benefitting marginalized women. Tour operator G Adventures, which has its US headquarters in Boston, has expanded its "G for

Good" social enterprise projects to include several more for women in Africa. Visits to the projects are built into many of its regular tours for adult women and men. The newest community development projects, which bring the total to 70 in 41 countries, were selected based on the potential economic impact of their travelers visiting Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and reflect G Adventures' increase of travelers to Africa. The projects include Tribal Textiles in Zambia, an all-female community-run fabric workshop, café and market, which is visited by G Adventures' 18-to-thirtysomethings guests; and the Lusumpuko Women's Club, a group of 20 women offering cooking demonstrations and farm-to-table meals to G Adventures travelers visiting Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

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Shop at the Sadar Bazaar (top right) in Old Delhi with Intrepid Travel or visit the Lusumpuko Women's Club (above, top left) in Zimbabwe with G Adventures.

HERE

HISTORIC HOTEL GETS MULTIMILLION MAKEOVER

For a romantic luxury getaway, take advantage of the special opening rate at The Wauwinet, a Relais & Châteaux hotel member located on the northeast shores of Nantucket. Following a multi-million-dollar restoration and renovation of its lobby, library and 32 guestrooms and cottages, the historic inn will reopen on April 18. Accommodation updates feature a fresh palate of light tones to replace the original wallpaper; new carpeting, plush armchairs, chaise lounges and other furnishings; and modern bed frames topped with custom Pratesi by Rivolta linens. Re-habbed bathrooms include marble floor tiles, glass-enclosed walk-in showers and Waterworks fixtures. *opening rate from \$225 per night. 800-426-8718, www.wauwinet.com*

GONE FISHING

Get your rods and reels ready and head to Maine on April 1, the first day of open-water fishing season. The chilly days of early spring are perfect for landing brook trout, landlocked salmon or smallmouth bass in the state's 6,000 lakes, ponds and rivers. Anglers can stay at one of Maine's many sporting camps and wilderness lodges found in remote and pristine areas, many featuring wood stoves and oil lamps that harken back to 19th-century sporting traditions. *Discover your perfect destination for fishing, hiking, canoeing and more on the Visit Maine interactive website. visitmaine.com/where-to-stay/sporting-camps-wilderness-lodges*



NANTUCKET ISLAND RESORTS

THERE

VERSACE MANSION OPENS FOR MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

With nine Emmy nominations and three wins, FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" brought the sordid tale of Andrew Cunanan's killing spree to life, and revived interest in the legendary designer's South Beach mansion. Built in 1930, and lavishly remodeled by Versace in the 1990s, the house today — known as Villa Casa Casuarina — operates as a 10-suite, luxury boutique hotel with signature restaurant Gianni's, the Onyx Bar, and several unique event spaces. For those ready to celebrate special events in high style, the property has launched a new initiative for groups ranging in size from 14 to 40. Parties can take place in the open-air courtyard; at Gianni's, overlooking the 54-foot-long pool lined with more than one million Italian mosaic tiles; the Medusa Dining Room; the Roman Room decorated with classic Greek statues; or in other

areas throughout the historic property. Design your own menu based on the restaurant's elegant offerings. *Pricing from \$79 per person, exclusive of tax, gratuity and alcoholic beverages. 786-485-2200, vmmiamibeach.com*

STEAM-POWERED SATURDAYS AT THE GRAND CANYON

Rail enthusiasts won't want to miss a chance to ride the Grand Canyon Railway's operational steam locomotive No. 4960, a 310-ton behemoth built in 1923. Excursions to the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park are offered on the first Saturday of every month through October. An additional



SCOTT TEMME

train is scheduled on Sept. 21, marking the company's 30th anniversary. Steam locomotive trips (and those on their contemporary fleet that run daily) depart from Williams, Ariz., about 30 miles west of Flagstaff. The train travels north for 65 scenic miles, through high desert, prairie, and pine. Price is gauged according to class of rail car, from Pullman to Luxury Parlor. *Tickets from \$67 adults; \$32 ages 2-15; free under age 2. 800-843-8724, www.thetrain.com/events/steam-saturdays*

EVERYWHERE

INNOVATIVE GEAR DELIVERED MONTHLY

Here's a cool new idea for avid outdoor enthusiasts: California-based Nomadik offers a monthly membership service for new and innovative adventure travel gear. Simply fill out a questionnaire with your travel interests and receive a curated box of gear from top-notch industry brands, including MountainSmith, Mizu, RX Bar, Seal-Line, Gear Aid, Kammock, Skratz Labs, Grand Trunk, MPOWERD, Power Practical, MoraKniv, GSI, Mountain House, and more. For example, their newest "Earth Day"-themed box (available through April 15) features an inflatable, waterproof lantern-size solar powered pocket that doubles as a flashlight and emergency light; stainless steel insulated straw; 24-ounce reusable BPA-free tumbler, and

more. Skip any month; only pay for what ships. *Subscriptions from \$32.95 include a value of up to \$70 in retail pricing. thenomadik.com*

FOOD CONTAINERS FOR KIDS ON-THE-GO

Traveling with toddlers can be a challenge, especially when it comes to mealtimes and snacks. Keep your tykes happy and full with bbluv's Döse, a multipurpose container for quick and simple snacking. Three



stackable four-ounce compartments can be filled with anything, from formula to dry cereal and fresh-cut fruit. It is small enough to fit in a purse and light enough for toddlers to carry with its flexible silicone handle. Guaranteed BPA, Phthalate and PVC free. Dishwasher safe. \$9.99. bbluv-group.com/product/bbluv-dose-multi-purpose-stackable And coming soon, bbluv's new Foöd thermal container keeps food hot or cold for up to six hours. Designed for parents traveling with babies and toddlers, its large lid acts as a bowl with an integrated spoon. Made of nontoxic stainless steel. Leakproof and odorproof. \$16.99. bbluvgroup.com/product/food NECEE REGIS