

READY, SET, EXPLORE!

Fifty-three exciting ways to see the world.



An elephant sighting in the Serengeti, on a game drive with Singita Faru Faru Lodge.

What makes your heart race? Scaling the world's tallest mountain? Swimming near the foot of a waterfall on a lush Caribbean island? Adventure is in the eye of the beholder, and no matter your style or speed, a Virtuoso travel advisor can help you craft an intrepid experience. For a little inspiration, peruse this list of more than 50 ideas - they're all offered by the Virtuoso hotels, cruise lines, tour operators, and destinations that specialize in adventure travel.

- *Tanvi Chheda*



Local wildlife during an African Travel excursion.

1.

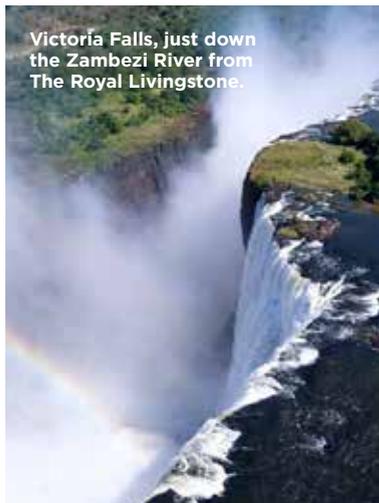
WITNESS THE GREAT MIGRATION IN TANZANIA.

Millions of wildebeests (plus zebras, antelopes, and more) migrate north from the Serengeti each spring. See it happen on game drives departing from the nine-room Singita Faru Faru Lodge. Bonus: **Singita** supports the nonprofit Grumeti Fund, created to conserve the area's ecosystem.

2.

BUNGEE JUMP OFF THE VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE.

The rushing Zambezi River below is the scene of this adrenaline-raising, 364-foot drop. **The Royal Livingstone Victoria Falls Zambia Hotel by Anantara** can arrange for its guests to make the leap – the 173-room hotel is a quick boat ride away from the bridge.



Victoria Falls, just down the Zambezi River from The Royal Livingstone.

3.

TRACK RHINOS ON FOOT IN NAMIBIA.

Rugged Damaraland is home to the largest population of free-roaming black rhinos in Africa. On an eight-day safari with **African Travel**, travelers spend three nights there, plus a few days spotting desert elephants, oryx, giraffes, and more wildlife on the country's arid Skeleton Coast.

4.

CLIMB MOUNT KILIMANJARO.

Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest free-standing peak, towers at 19,340 feet. **National Geographic Expeditions'** eight-day trek follows the lesser-known Lemosho route up the mountain's western side, through rain forests, lava formations, and glaciers along the way to the crater.



5.

TRAVEL ACROSS MADAGASCAR.

Yes, there's wildlife, but one of the other highlights of **Big Five Tours & Expeditions'** 11-day Madagascar trip is a visit to the centuries-old kingdom of the Sakalava people in Morondava. Afterward, spend sunset at the iconic Avenue of the Baobabs, lined with the unique trees for which the country is known.

6.

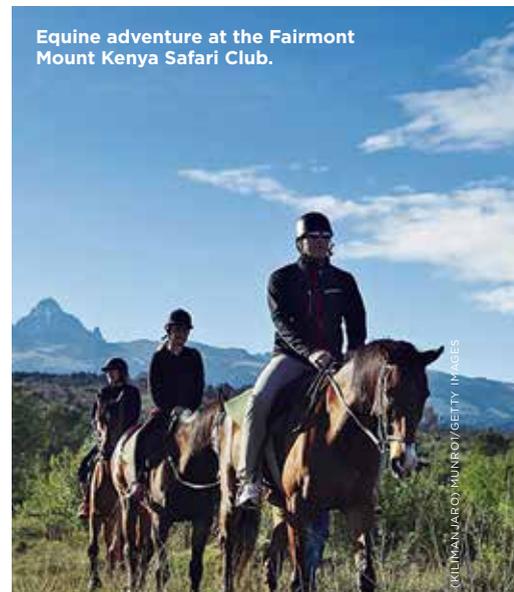
SPY ON GORILLAS IN THE WILD.

On a four-day trip through Volcanoes National Park in northwestern Rwanda, guides from **Micato Safaris** lead small groups of travelers into the jungle for memorable, up-close experiences with mountain gorilla families.

7.

LODGE-HOP IN KENYA.

Fairmont Hotels and Resorts' trio of Kenya properties – the 170-room Fairmont The Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, 120-room Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, and 51-room Fairmont Mara Safari Club, bordering the Maasai Mara game reserve – let travelers pack urban adventure, enlightening game drives, and top-notch relaxation into one very classic Kenya safari experience.



Equine adventure at the Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club.

© KILIMANJARO, MUNDO / GETTY IMAGES

Floating on air with Wilderness Safaris in Zambia.



8.

GO HOT-AIR BALLOONING OVER ZAMBIA.

In addition to those bird's-eye views, **Wilderness Safaris'** weeklong journey to Zambia includes lion sightings in Kafue National Park, game drives along the Zambezi River, a visit to the iconic Victoria Falls, and sleek accommodations in two of the tour operator's tented camps.

9.

VISIT NELSON MANDELA'S FORMER PRISON CELL ON ROBBER ISLAND.

The apartheid era in **South Africa** serves as a lens for understanding the "rainbow nation" today. Learn about this chapter in the country's history on Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned before his release in 1990.

10.

SIGN UP FOR A SRILANKAN COOKING CLASS.

On a private, 12-day journey with **Remote Lands** across this diverse island nation, travelers will explore cave temples in Dambulla, visit tea plantations in the Bogawantalawa Valley, and take a seafood cooking class in coastal Tangalla.



A Remote Lands cooking class.

(HOT-AIR BALLOON) DANA ALLEN/WILDERNESS SAFARIS

11.

HAVE TEA WITH A BERBER FAMILY.

Zegrahm Expeditions' 12-day cultural jaunt through Morocco begins in Rabat with a tour of the Kasbah of the Udayas, followed by visits to the medina in Fez, mosque tours in Casablanca, a drive through the Atlas Mountains, and plenty of sensory overload in Marrakech.

12.

SPOT ENDANGERED SNOW LEOPARDS IN LADAKH.

Along with the rare chance to see these animals in the wild, guests will learn about snow leopard conservation efforts on a 13-day Himalayan expedition with **andBeyond**. The cultural immersion is impressive: Travelers will spend a week living with a local Ladakhi family.

13.

LEARN ABOUT ELEPHANT CONSERVATION IN THAILAND.

The highlight of a stay at Chiang Saen's 61-room **Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort** is the up close and personal, sustainable experiences with elephants - you'll walk alongside them and watch as they splash around and play.

14.

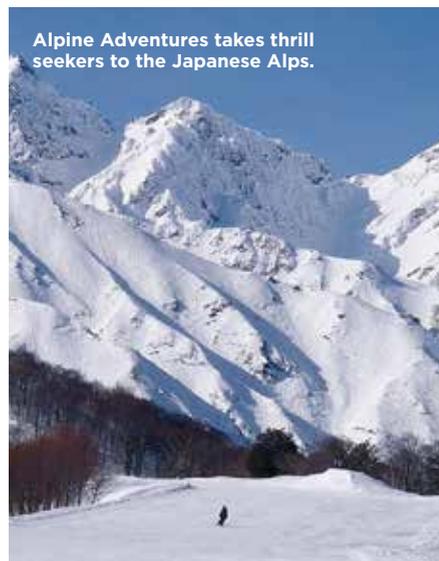
HIKE TO THE TIGER'S NEST.

The ancient monastery (whose proper name is Paro Taktsang) is a seventeenth-century temple complex on the site where Buddhism is believed to have originated in Bhutan in the eighth century. Guests staying at the nearby **Amankora Paro** - one of five Amankora lodges in Bhutan - can visit, then return to the property for a spa treatment based on Tibetan wellness philosophies.

15.

GO SKIING IN JAPAN.

Nagano Prefecture's Hakuba Valley - the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics - wins over powder junkies with its wide range of terrain, vertical rise, and advanced slopes. Tour operator **Alpine Adventures** customizes skiing and snowboarding trips to the area.

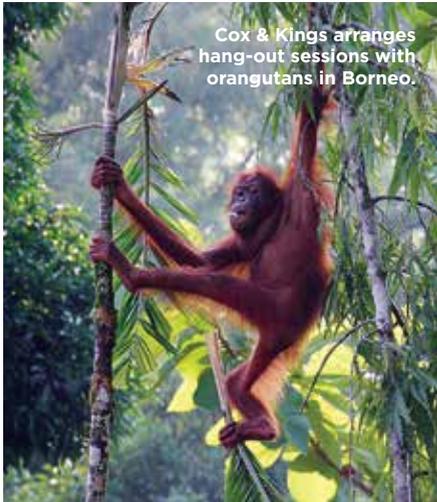


Alpine Adventures takes thrill seekers to the Japanese Alps.

16.

VISIT AN ORANGUTAN REHABILITATION CENTER IN BORNEO.

At the Semonggoh Wildlife Centre – one stop on **Cox & Kings’** ten-day immersion in this rugged South-east Asian island – travelers will learn about the center’s successful rehabilitation program, which helps reintroduce orangutans into the wild.



Cox & Kings arranges hang-out sessions with orangutans in Borneo.

17.

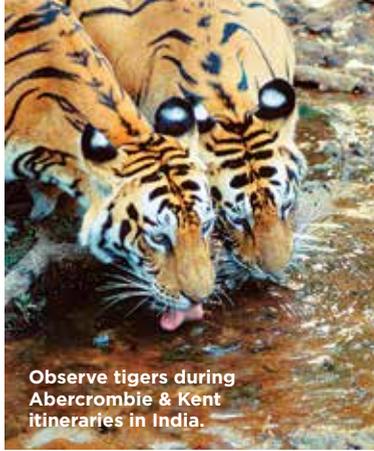
SOAR OVER MOUNT EVEREST.

On a new ten-day walking adventure in Nepal with **Butterfield & Robinson**, travelers will hike through forests and rice paddies, take a helicopter ride over the Himalayas, and visit several temples and monasteries, including Namobuddha, one of the county’s most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

18.

CRUISE THE MEKONG RIVER.

An eight-day, Ho Chi Minh City-to-Siem Reap sailing on **Aqua Expeditions’** 40-passenger *Aqua Mekong* showcases the region’s culture and biodiversity through village excursions, a visit to the Prek Toal bird sanctuary, and more. *Departures: Multiple dates, July 5, 2019, to August 28, 2020.*



Observe tigers during Abercrombie & Kent itineraries in India.

19.

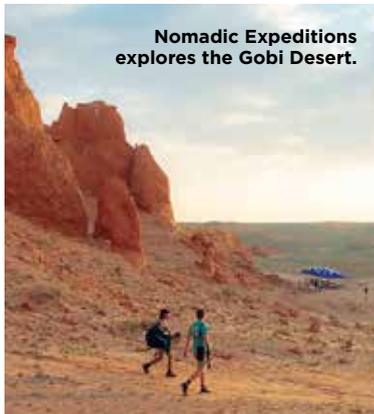
HEAD TO INDIA FOR A TIGER SAFARI.

Search for the elusive Bengal tiger, as well as leopards and wild boars, in the forests of northern India’s Bandhavgarh and Kanha national parks on a 14-day trip with **Abercrombie & Kent**. Travelers will also spend time in the forest of Gir National Park in Gujarat, home to the Asiatic lion.

20.

CAMP OUT IN THE GOBI DESERT.

Spend two weeks exploring Mongolia with **Nomadic Expeditions**. Highlights include temple visits in Ulaanbaatar, a traditional Mongolian horseback trek in Bat-Ulzii, and a few adventurous nights overnighing under the stars in the middle of the Gobi Desert.



Nomadic Expeditions explores the Gobi Desert.

21.

SIP YOUR WAY ACROSS SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA.

On **Swain Destinations’** 12-day jaunt across South Australia and Victoria, travelers will visit the popular wine-growing regions of the Mornington Peninsula and Yarra Valley, hang out with wildlife on Kangaroo Island, and restaurant-hop in Melbourne.

22.

SHARE A TRADITIONAL MEAL IN A MAORI VILLAGE.

Kensington Tours’ private, 14-day New Zealand and Fiji exploration is a great introduction to both destinations. Learn about Maori culture in Rotorua, cruise Milford Sound, taste New Zealand syrahs on Waiheke Island, and relax on one of Fiji’s Mamanuca Islands.



A Kensington Tours helicopter outing in New Zealand.

23.

GO WHITE-WATER RAFTING.

On **New Zealand’s** lush North Island, the Tongariro River flows north from Tongariro National Park to Lake Taupo. It offers something for every type of adventure seeker: Raft past volcanic gorges and hidden waterfalls or stay put along the shore and give trout fishing a go.

New Zealand’s Tongariro River.



(RIVER) GEOFF BILLING/GREAT LAKE TAUPO



Australia's Uluru.

24.

JOURNEY TO THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK.

Australia's Northern Territory is known for its rugged landscapes and epic road trips, but no journey there is complete without a visit to Uluru. The red-orange sandstone formation within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is said to have formed 550 million years ago, and is a place of cultural and spiritual importance for local Aboriginal people.

25.

SNORKEL WITH SHARKS.

Travel advisors can work with **Southern World Fiji**, an on-site tour connection in the country, to customize multiday itineraries to the islands. One idea: Spend nine days on Denarau and Davui islands, visiting a Fijian village, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, snorkeling, and relaxing by the pool. (Southern World also customizes travel in Australia and New Zealand.)



26.

EMBARK ON A SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION.

Silversea Expeditions' 17-day, Lautoka, Fiji-to-Cairns sailing on the 144-passenger *Silver Explorer* calls on remote outposts in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and other locations. The journey pairs intrepid and immersive shore excursions with luxe at-sea accommodations. *Departure: April 24, 2020.*

27.

PEDAL THROUGH THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES.

On a six-day, active adventure to Italy with tour operator **Backroads**, travelers will hike across alpine meadows and cycle through dramatic mountain landscapes, all while capping off each evening with *aperitivi*, Michelin-starred meals, and five-star accommodations.



A Backroads cyclist in the Dolomites.

28.

TREK SPAIN'S FAMOUS CAMINO DE SANTIAGO.

The 485-mile walking path is a pilgrimage for travelers all over the world, and on **GAdventures'** ten-day group tour, hikers will conquer the final 62 miles of the trail over the course of several days. (Some pre-trek downtime in Madrid is included.)



Hiking Spain's Camino de Santiago with G Adventures.

29.

GO HIKING FOR FONDUE IN GSTAAD.

A highlight of trekking some of the 40,000-plus miles of trails in **Switzerland**? The cozy alpine restaurants found at the tops of peaks all over the country. In Gstaad, an Alps resort town known for its cheese, take the chairlift up to Bergrestaurant La Videmanette for indulgent meals *and* views.

30.

CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS.

On a 12-day, round-trip-from-Bergen, astronomy-themed sailing on **Hurtigruten's** 919-passenger *Finnmarken*, cruisers visit a planetarium in Tromsø, stop in small towns along the Norwegian coast, and spend time with onboard astronomy experts while looking for the northern lights. *Departures: September 26, October 29, and November 20.*



A view from Hurtigruten's Finnmarken off Norway.

31.

ADMIRE OTHERWORLDLY LANDSCAPES IN ICELAND.

The unspoiled fjords along Iceland's eastern coast – with its towering peaks, stunning waterfalls, and surreal glaciers – are a hiker's dream. Travel advisors can work with **Iceland Encounter**, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in the country, to customize private adventures.

32.

VENTURE TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD.

Head out with **Quark Expeditions** on an 18-day, Oslo-to-Reykjavik Arctic expedition on the 128-passenger *Ocean Adventurer* that calls on Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Norwegian archipelago; the remote Norwegian island of Jan Mayen; Ittoqqortoormiit, Greenland, home to one of the world's most remote communities; and Iceland. *Departure: August 13, 2020.*



Whale-watching, Australis style.

33.

RETRACE DARWIN'S ROUTE THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA.

Full of glacier hikes, Magellanic penguin colony sightings, and Zodiac excursions, this nine-day, round-trip-from-Ushuaia **Australis** cruise on the 210-passenger *Ventus Australis* showcases Patagonia's stark beauty and unique wildlife in spades. *Departures: Multiple dates, September 25, 2019, to April 4, 2020.*

34.

SPEND A WEEK IN THE DESERT.

Chile's Atacama Desert is the world's driest landscape. Guests at the 50-room Explora Atacama – one of several **Explora** adventure lodges in South America – can sign up for horseback-riding tours, stargazing sessions, geyser hikes, and some 40 other active adventures.

35.

GO BIRD-WATCHING IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS.

Cruise through Darwin's playground on an 11-day, round-trip-from-Quito journey with **Celebrity Cruises** on the 100-passenger *Celebrity Xpedition*. Highlights include iguana, sea lion, and frigate bird sightings; a visit to a tortoise



breeding station on Santa Cruz Island; and two pre-cruise days in Quito. *Departures: Multiple dates, July 4 to December 19.*

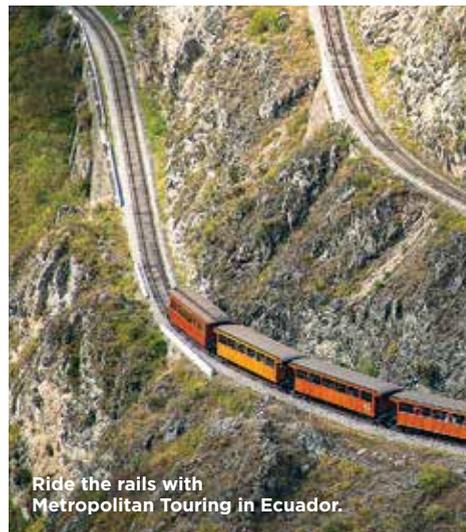
36.

ADMIRE STREET ART IN CARTAGENA.

One great way to experience modern culture and ancient history in **Colombia**: a mural tour through Cartagena's revitalized Getsemani barrio, followed by a multiday trek to the country's Ciudad Perdida (Lost City), a ninth-century archaeological site that predates Machu Picchu.



A Vinicunca Mountain visit courtesy of LimaTours.



Ride the rails with Metropolitan Touring in Ecuador.

37.

GO ALL OUT IN ECUADOR.

Metropolitan Touring – a Virtuoso on-site tour connection with locations in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru – can arrange an array of custom South American adventures. On a trip through Ecuador, for example, travelers will zip-line through a cloud forest, cruise the Galápagos Islands, and look for condors and pumas while on a hike through Cotopaxi National Park.

38.

HIKE PERU'S VIBRANT "RAINBOW MOUNTAIN."

The colorful bands on Vinicunca Mountain (just outside Cuzco) are the result of millions of years of mineral sediment and buildup. Travel advisors can work with **LimaTours**, an on-site connection in the country, to arrange a two-day trek on the mountain – it's a great add-on to a custom-designed Peru adventure.

39.

STAND AT THE EDGE OF A 269-FOOT WATERFALL.

On **Ladatco Tours'** 11-day exploration of Argentina, travelers learn about the history of the tango in Buenos Aires; visit chocolate shops in Bariloche; and walk along platforms to the Devil's Throat, a standout section of the Iguazú Falls system on the Argentina-Brazil border.



40.

SIP COFFEE IN COSTA RICA.

Criss-cross the Central American country on a nine-day group tour with **International Expeditions**. In addition to taking rain-forest hikes and white-water rafting excursions, travelers learn how coffee beans are harvested and processed at an estate near Arenal and hang out with ocelots, monkeys, and two-toed sloths in Monteverde's Curi Cancha Reserve.

41.

ASCEND 12,500 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL TO LAKE TITICACA.

After a few days of visiting **Peru's** Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley – and adjusting to the area's high altitude – plan a trip south to Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. It's a serene, less-explored area of the country that's home to Inca ruins, lakefront lodges, and some 100 artificial islands created by the indigenous Uros people.



Lake Titicaca.

42.

DANCE THE RUMBA IN HAVANA.

On a nine-day exploration of Cuba with **Rico Tours**, travelers spend a few days in Havana visiting Ernest Hemingway's former home, learning about the history of rumba, and exploring UNESCO-protected Old Havana. The rest of the trip is dedicated to the countryside and the beach, from the verdant Viñales Valley to the tropical Hicacos Peninsula.

43.

HEAD TO BAJA CALIFORNIA FOR A SURF LESSON.

Los Cabos, Mexico, is home to an annual professional surfing competition; adrenaline enthusiasts from all over come here to catch a wave. Most hotels in the area can arrange lessons – or, for something more laid-back, boat out to The Arch, the area's iconic natural rock formation.



Surfing Los Cabos.

44.

SOAK IT ALL UP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

On the island's north side, the 27 *charcos* (pools) fed by Damajagua River waterfalls are a popular place for zipping down natural limestone waterslides. The 50-room **Casa Colonial Beach & Spa**, an hour's drive away on Playa Dorada, can arrange a day-trip.

45.

WHALE-WATCH ON MEXICO'S SEA OF CORTÉS.

Jacques Cousteau once called this body of water the world's aquarium, and on an eight-day, round-trip-from-San José del Cabo sailing on **UnCruise Adventures'** 88-passenger *Safari Endeavour*, cruisers can keep an eye out for dolphins; fin, blue, and sperm whales; mobula rays; and plenty of reef fish. *Departures: Multiple dates, December 21, 2019, to April 4, 2020.*



A whale shark sighting with UnCruise Adventures in the Sea of Cortés.

46.

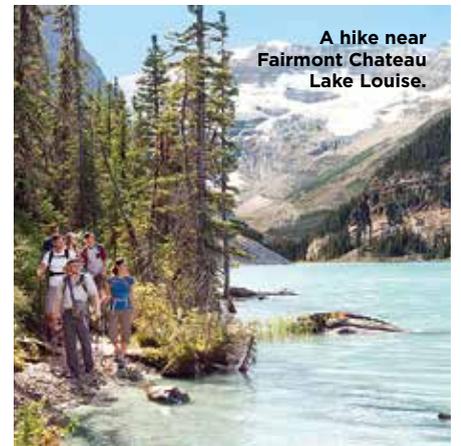
TAKE AN ADULTS-ONLY GETAWAY TO THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS.

Three hours north of Seattle (via car and ferry), Washington's idyllic San Juan Islands are an ideal setting for a restorative, adults-only retreat. Kayak, hike, bike, *and* enjoy some of the area's best seafood and wine on **Austin Adventures'** six-day group adventure.

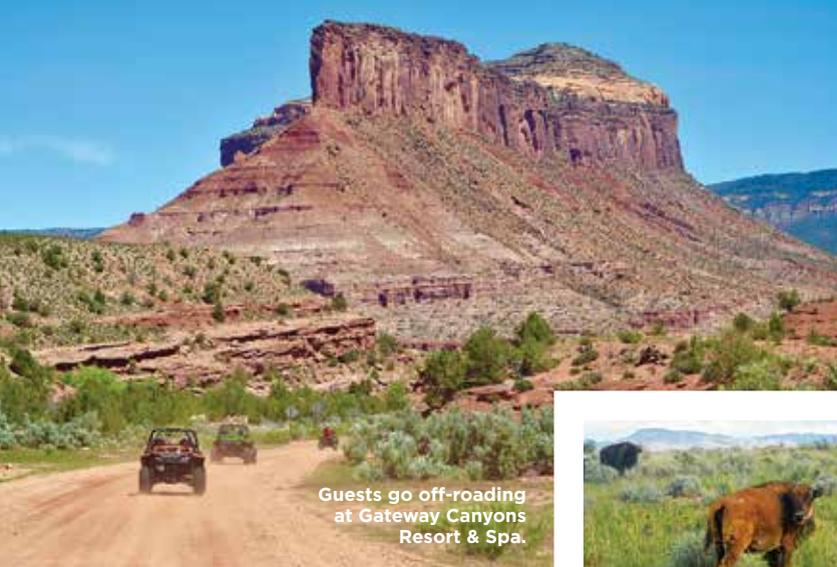
47.

EXPLORE THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.

These snowcapped peaks are a haven for hiking, white-water rafting, skiing, and more. All of the **Fairmont Hotels & Resorts** in Canada's western mountain region – the 757-room Fairmont Banff Springs, 552-room Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, 442-room Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, and 528-room Fairmont Chateau Whistler – can arrange heart-racing activities.



A hike near Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.



Guests go off-roading at Gateway Canyons Resort & Spa.



A beluga whale sighting with Canada by Design.



Ted Turner Reserves' wildlife.

48.

GET BEHIND THE WHEEL IN WESTERN COLORADO.

Near the Utah border, Colorado's 72-room **Gateway Canyons Resort & Spa** offers a wide array of outdoor activities, from hiking in nearby canyons to taking a jeep out for an off-road spin. After the adventure, book it to the spa for an arnica- and mint-infused foot massage.

49.

SPEND A WEEKEND DINING IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Find adventure served on a plate in **Vancouver, British Columbia**, where restaurant highlights include everything from contemporary Indian cuisine by local celebrity chef Vikram Vij to *izakaya* galore downtown. Your travel advisor can handle the reservations.

50.

HEAD OUT ON A YELLOWSTONE PHOTO SAFARI ...

On an eight-day trip through Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks with **Natural Habitat Adventures**, expert guides will bring photographers up close to the area's resident elk, moose, bison, and other wild species. Go in the fall for stunning foliage backdrops. *Departures: Multiple dates, August 29, 2019, to September 23, 2020.*

51.

... OR SHOW OFF YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS IN NEW MEXICO.

At the remote Armandaris Ranch, part of the 1.1 million-acre **Ted Turner Reserves** trio of lodges in south-central New Mexico, guests can embark on a photography expedition into the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert, home to bison, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and millions of Mexican free-tailed bats.

52.

SEE BELUGA WHALES OFF CHURCHILL, MANITOBA.

Advisors can work with **Canada by Design powered by Discover Holidays**, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in Canada, to customize an array of trips across the country. On a six-day visit to Winnipeg and Churchill, travelers will discover Inuit art, go dogsledding, and spend time with beluga whales, which migrate to this area every July and August.

53.

BOARD AN EXPEDITION CRUISE TO ANTARCTICA.

The focus is heavy on exploration during **Lindblad Expeditions'** 14-day, round-trip-from-Ushuaia journey to the White Continent. From their base on the 148-passenger *National Geographic Explorer*, cruisers will search for penguins, whales, and leopard seals; kayak among ice floes; and learn about the threat of climate change to this pristine environment. *Departures: Multiple dates, November 27, 2019, to February 6, 2021.*



Lindblad Expeditions in Antarctica.

(ANTARCTICA) MICHAEL S. MOLAN/LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS