

# TravelBITS



## HEALTHY PLATES

 Cunard's Queen Mary 2 cruise ship offers a menu created in collaboration with Canyon Ranch that uses quality carbs, a balance of protein, healthy fats and is free of artificial sweeteners.

SOURCE: FOX NEWS

## REACH NEW HEIGHTS

 Want to tell your friends you hiked the tallest peak in Central America? Here's your chance! The two-day trek up Guatemala's highest peak, Volcano Tajumulco, standing at 13,845 feet tall, is challenging enough to kick your butt but also doable for a wide range of people, even those with little or no previous hiking experience.

SOURCE: HUFFINGTON POST



## HITCH A RIDE IN THE SKY

 The historic Durango & Silverton "Narrow Gauge" Railroad is the only way to reach the longest zip-lining course in the world. Soaring Tree Top Adventures zips thrill-seekers over 1.5 miles of cable on 27 different zip-lines and provides visitors with a four-course gourmet lunch while overlooking the Animas River; [www.soaringcolorado.com](http://www.soaringcolorado.com).

SOURCE: USA TODAY

## Hail a Bike



Yellow Backie is an Amsterdam-based initiative that encourages visitors to adopt the Dutch custom of "backie" – getting a ride on a fellow cyclist's luggage rack. Visitors must keep their eyes out for Backie drivers, who traverse the city on bicycles adorned with bright yellow luggage racks. When they spot one they simply shout "Backie!"; [www.yellowbackie.org](http://www.yellowbackie.org).

SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

 Routehappy, a website that rates flights based on amenities and comfort, has begun detailing food onboard, including the data in its happiness ratings; [www.routehappy.com](http://www.routehappy.com).

SOURCE: SMARTBRIEF.COM

## SAILING THE CARIBBEAN

 Hiring a private sailing yacht is easier than it sounds, made worthwhile with quiet days on the open sea and stops at islands that can still feel newly discovered. Many charters provide excellent food (and drink), and the beauty of having an entire ship is being able to customize the itinerary; [www.sail-csu.com](http://www.sail-csu.com).

SOURCE: CNN.COM



## KILLER VIEWS

 Last year, Scotland inaugurated the John Muir Way, a new walking route that traverses the country west-to-east for 134 miles between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde, coaxing people to dust off their boots, pack a bag and set out to explore the many colors of Scotland's coastline and countryside.

SOURCE: WSJ.COM

## Starlight, Star Bright



The deserts of northern Chile's dry, clear skies and high altitude make for unmatched stargazing. Lately, the stunning starscapes have proved a draw for travelers, especially in the Elqui Valley, a 100-mile strip of vineyards, orchards and at least a half-dozen small observatories catering to stargazers.

SOURCE: NY TIMES

### HIGH SEAS SPLASH



Royal Caribbean International will amp up the adventure on the new *Harmony of the Seas*, the world's largest cruise ship and the first to feature Splashaway Bay, an interactive aqua park for kids and *The Ultimate Abyss*, the tallest slide at sea, including a 100-foot dramatic plunge.

SOURCE: LATIMES.COM

### A FISHY AFFAIR



Seafood fans are sure to enjoy the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo, the largest and busiest wholesale fish market in the world offering more than 400 varieties of seafood – everything from cheap seaweed to the most expensive caviar.

SOURCE: TIME.COM

### LAST-MINUTE GETAWAYS



A new app, *Trvler*, meets the desire for spontaneous travel with curated packages that remove the details of planning. Users pay a monthly fee that covers the cost of a trip every 90 days; [www.trvler.com](http://www.trvler.com).

SOURCE: SPRINGWISE.COM



### FIT TO A TEE



The International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) has named the Dominican Republic "Best Golf Destination of Latin America and the Caribbean 2016," in recognition of the 28 internationally renowned courses that the country calls its own.

SOURCE: FAIRWAYLADIES.EU

### INTRO TO THE WORLD



A new app by Rand McNally, *Intro to Geography – World Edition*, helps children learn the shapes, names, flags, and locations of every country in the world through interactive puzzles, challenges and drawing exercises.

SOURCE: PR NEWswire

### WELCOME, CUBS!



Making their first appearance: 4- and 6-week-old tiger cubs at Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at The Mirage Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

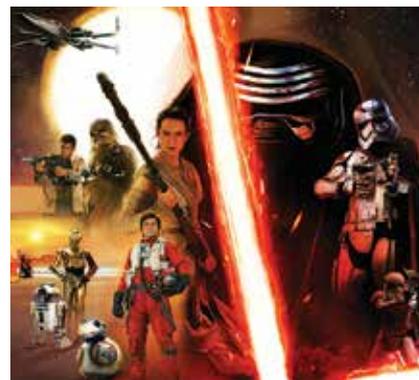
SOURCE: BLOOMBERG NEWS

### SEARCHING FOR THE REAL DEAL



GetGoing is a blind-booking site that nets up to 40% off flights if you let it pick between two destinations; [www.getgoing.com](http://www.getgoing.com).

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



### TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS FOR STAR WARS FANS



December 18 looms large on the calendars of Star Wars fans because that's when the seventh installment in the saga, "Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens," debuts in theaters worldwide. For die-hard fans, simply seeing the movie isn't enough. They want to travel to actual locations closely associated with the films. According to European travel site GoEuro.com, there are 31 destinations that should be on every Star Wars fan's must-see list. The spots are spread far and wide, from Tunisia to Italy, the United Kingdom to the American Southwest. The top five places to visit are: LEGOLAND (locations worldwide), Luke Skywalker's boyhood home and other Tatooine locations (multiple destinations in Tunisia), the world's largest Star Wars collection at Rancho Obi Wan (Petaluma, California) and Madam Tussauds' Star Wars Exhibits (United Kingdom and Germany). In order to rank the destinations, GoEuro partnered with GetYourGuide and factored in accessibility, accommodations and amenities. For the complete list, visit [www.goeuro.com/star-wars-filming-locations](http://www.goeuro.com/star-wars-filming-locations).

SOURCE: GOEURO