

THE TRAVEL TATTTLER

TRAVEL NEWS, TIPS AND TIDBITS

Q3 2017



▲ GREECE • BERLIN • SOUTH PACIFIC VOYAGE • BACKCOUNTRY SKIING • LAUCALA, FIJI

HUFFMAN TRAVEL LTD

CHICAGO • DAYTON

Letter FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends of Huffman Travel,

I hope you are reading the *Travel Tattler* in 'summer mode' — preferably in a location that makes you feel happy and relaxed. Isn't that what's summer is all about?

I recently returned from our family trip to two of our favorite countries: Italy and France. But... this summer we saw Italy in an entirely different way — on bikes! A professionally-led bike trip has been on my Bucket List for years, but while the kids were young we favored more relaxing vacations which were most welcome. Finally, 2017 was the year to embark on the biking trip, as a family! I was really excited for many reasons — to spend a week exploring Puglia, a region of Italy none of us had ever visited; to be active and busy at a level that all of us could handle; and to be a guest on a program that someone else organized (big plus for me!).

Butterfield & Robinson's (www.butterfield.com) Puglia Family Biking Trip did not disappoint.

Slow Down to See the World

We had the most amazing time peddling through olive groves, along the seafront, and up and down hills that felt a lot steeper than they looked! We experienced so many 'memory-making moments,' many of which would not have been possible without the incredible compassion and skills of our biking guides, Sonia and Marcela. They became like family to us, and we all (kids and adults) followed them with confidence and excitement as we embarked on each day's adventure never knowing if we'd end the day with a private pasta making class, go-carting or a cruise along the sea on our private yacht. Whatever the activity, we fell into bed every night exhausted but inspired for the next day's adventure.



Now that I've had a few weeks to reflect on our bike trip, the thing that I keep reflecting on is the importance of creating a **Multi-Year Family Travel Calendar**.

This is a concept I often talk about with clients, and try my

best to incorporate into my own travel activity.

The idea is to take a look at your family and decide where you want to go. Then, create a calendar that illustrates when you can travel each year and list all the major milestones that will impact your travel (when will your kids start working in the summer? What are the summer sports schedules? When do you plan to retire? etc). Once you overlay these events, you'll be surprised how little time you have left to see the places on your Bucket List! Don't worry, we can help!

#TravelistoLive

by **Shawna Huffman Owen**

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Feature

GOTTA LOVE GREECE

Greece had been on my bucket list for years. Whose isn't it on? I've always been intrigued with the historical aspect of Greece, but most of all I had to see for myself if the sunsets are really that great and if the food is really that good. I am happy to report Greece lives up to the hype... don't think twice about it, just GO!

I started in Athens, which is obviously a must-do on any Greece itinerary. Athens gives you a great base for the historical significance of Greece and spending a half day visiting the Acropolis & Acropolis Museum is a must. With the rest

of your time, I suggest strolling through the Plaka neighborhood, or old town Athens. There are many fun and casual restaurants here, and loads of temptations for souvenirs. Once you have checked these boxes, don't waste any more time in Athens and get out into real Greece.

While there are many, many historical sites and interesting things you can do on the mainland, for me Greece is about getting out to the islands and no trip is complete without spending time exploring them. The most famously recognized are those

“The Greek people are so proud of their culture and love nothing more than to share it with you.”

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of the Cycladic Islands (Mykonos and Santorini being the most well known). What’s so special about the islands... Where do I begin?

- The cobalt blue Aegean Sea surrounding the Cycladic islands — I have not seen water like this anywhere else.
- Iconic white washed buildings against the clear blue sky.
- The food! Fresh fish galore, fresh vegetables, and the best olive

oil in the world. A visit to Greece will prove to you just how fabulous the Mediterranean diet really is!

- Fabulous sunsets and vistas. Santorini most definitely lives up to its reputation and you can easily just stare off onto the horizon for hours. It never gets old.
- Culture: not just in Athens, but everywhere in the islands you find ruins and nods to ancient history.
- The people: the Greek people are so warm and welcoming. They are so proud of their culture and love nothing more than to share it with you.

Another thing I fell in love with about Greece was — the shoes! Ladies, Greece is terrific for finding fabulous sandals that you won’t see everyplace. You can find high-quality leather sandals at very reasonable prices. The islands are full of shops that will custom make your very own sandals. Make sure to leave room in your luggage to bring back many pairs!

I truly think Greece is a destination that offers something for everyone. It doesn’t matter if you just want to relax or be active, if you’re a foodie, wine lover or history junkie, a shopaholic or just a hopeless romantic in search of the best sunset... Greece has it covered.

Greece holds a special place in my heart and I am already looking forward to my next trip! Who wants to join me? ➔



by
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“Don’t be turned off by Berlin in the winter — its no doubt cold but intriguing all the same.”



Feature

A LONG WEEKEND IN BERLIN

Shawna Huffman Owen and I have been friends for years and like to mix business and pleasure by traveling to check out new destinations for our clients. This past winter, we spent four nights in Berlin and loved it, despite the fact that locals kept telling us we were there at the worst time of year. We had a wonderful time in frigid temperatures, so I can only imagine how fantastic the city is when the beer gardens are open and everyone is out enjoying the sunshine and breezes from the River Spree.

I hadn’t been to Berlin since 1990; a few months after the Wall came down. Other than the architectural landmarks, the city was unrecognizable to me this

visit. Berlin offers something for everyone: art galleries and museums for culture buffs, abundant green space and children’s museums for families, high-end hotels, a thriving restaurant scene for sophisticated travelers and of course, a complex and turbulent history that can’t be forgotten.

Here are our top picks for a long weekend.

Hotels

- **Hotel de Rome:** an all-around crowd pleaser for couples and families alike. Berlin’s most luxurious and elegant hotel in a great location.
- **Das Stue:** Chic, boutique hotel for couples built in the former Danish Embassy. Near

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leafy Tiergarten, but not within walking distance of most sights, restaurants or shopping.

- **Soho House:** Cool, hip property in a happening neighborhood. Fun, but the scene is better than the service.

Sights

- **Reichstag:** Germany's Parliament and it's a must-visit to see Norman Foster's incredible, sparkling glass dome. Tip: If you have breakfast or lunch at the delicious **Kafer Dachgarten** restaurant on the terrace next to the dome, you can skip the line to enter the Reichstag (restaurant reservations are a must)

- **Jewish Museum:** Haunting and powerful because it is but very spare; much is left up to the visitor's imagination.

- **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe:** Sobering slabs of concrete artfully spread over several acres in the center of Berlin

- **Berlin War Memorial/East Side Gallery:** The best places to see the remains of the Berlin Wall

- **Potsdam:** A half day trip from Berlin; the Versailles of Germany

Art Museums/Galleries

- **Boros Gallery:** A private gallery in a former war bunker with rotating exhibits. Appointment only and worth seeing as much for the building as for the art.

- **Museum Island:** A complex of 5 amazing museums with a range of historic art and artifacts from all over the world.

Restaurants

- **Grill Royal:** Well-known, chic steakhouse on the bank of the



Spree River (same owner as Pauly Saal below).

- **Pauly Saal:** Michelin-starred, Modern German restaurant located in the former Jewish Girls' School (the school is full of galleries and worth exploring).

- **Katz Orange:** Casual, delicious international cuisine in a converted church in Mitte.

- **Crackers:** Modern cuisine in a gorgeous, dramatic space. Very hip – only a tiny sign on the door and then you walk through an industrial hallway and the kitchen before reaching the restaurant.

- **Tausend Cantina:** Another “hidden” restaurant, tucked under a bridge in Mitte, serving a casual mix of Mexican, Japanese and Italian cuisine. ➔



by
**André
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Our Advisors

WHAT'S IN YOUR TRAVEL BAG?

Get to know the Huffman Travel Advisors a bit better by learning about what they can't leave home without...

LISA

- ✓ I always pack two pair of Sketchers shoes, because they are comfortable for walking, light to pack, and a bit dressier than gym shoes. Plus, they come in many colors.
- ✓ In my carry-on, I always pack my own small **personal blanket**, because I know it is clean, and sometimes the airlines don't have enough to go around when the plane gets cool.



- ✓ Another must is my own luggage identifiers. These days, many pieces of luggage look the same, so I purchase my own identifier that makes my bag stand out when claiming my bag at baggage claim.



JEFF

- ✓ Nivea Smoothness Lip Balm
- ✓ **Bob Marley Earbuds**, for those that are annoyed by the standard iPhone earbuds that won't fit. Bob M comes with 3 sets for the right fit.
- ✓ Emergen-C Electrolyte Drink Mix to stay hydrated when traveling abroad.
- ✓ I never travel internationally without Cipro to nip any illness in the bud that's picked up along the way. Talk to your doctor before departing
- ✓ Triscuits, a healthy snack! ;)

No matter your age, don't forget to bring a fresh pack of antibacterial wipes welcome in almost any situation.

KRISTA

- ✓ **Clinique Dramatically Different Lotion**: Keeps your face from getting dried out in the sun, and also helps with sunburn relief.
- ✓ Nike air max walking shoes!
- ✓ Extra strength Advil Gel Caps: Nothing is worse than a headache when you're out for a day at the beach!





10-DAY SOUTH PACIFIC VOYAGE ON OCEANIA'S MARINA

Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of French Polynesia! Set sail from Papeete, Tahiti, moving on to explore Moorea, Fakarava, Rangiroa, Bora Bora, Raiatea, Huahine, before returning back to Papeete. These stunning ports embody paradise: mountains, waterfalls, white sand beaches and pristine turquoise waters. The landscape — including rare birds, plants and undersea life — will take your breath away! Oceania Cruises' mid-size *Marina* is your well-appointed home away from home. She boasts multiple dining venues, luxurious staterooms and diverse entertainment options. We love the high staff-to-guest ratio: you will want for nothing! Oceania Cruises are known for immersive experiences. Take a cooking or art class, participate in an amazing island dining experience or one of the incredible (and also included!) 6 shore excursions.

EXCLUSIVE BACKCOUNTRY SKIING AT SCARP RIDGE LODGE

You'll never want to leave when you stay at Eleven Experience's Scarp Ridge Lodge. Located in Crested Butte, Colorado, it's the perfect backdrop for the multi-gen family vacation. The lodge, which sleeps up to 20, is designed for the most discerning traveler, with plenty of communal areas, as well as play space and bunk rooms for gaggles of kids. It offers the perfect amount of self-contained luxury (fully-stocked kitchen, private chef, vehicles and experienced guides). Plus, it is walking distance to the charming Crested Butte downtown! Scarp Ridge Lodge can also be combined with the smaller 200 Sopris House right next door, to sleep up to 30 guests. Just 10 miles west you'll find Eleven's flagship cat ski operation. Ski as you never have before: the snow cats are glorified limousines on snow, delivering you to the best snow of your life, again and again, all day. Irwin is a meteorological anomaly, meaning it snows A LOT there. This is your playground!



LAUCALA: FIJI'S BREATHTAKING PRIVATE ISLAND

Transport yourself to another world, amidst coconut plantations, white-sand beaches, turquoise lagoons, lush green mountains and breath-taking natural beauty. Laucala Island is a 3,500-acre award-winning private island located in the northern region of Fiji. Stay in one of 25 luxurious Fiji-style villas, all with private pools and beach access. The island is best known for sporting and leisure activities (with personal instructors!), an 18-hole championship golf course, Organic Spa, tennis, kids club, horseback riding, and a variety of water sports, including Dive certification, 14 boats, a deep flight Submarine and more. This 80% self-sustainable island prides itself by offering a true "Farm-to-table concept in its five exclusive restaurants. You'll have an impressive choice of international and local cuisine, complemented by a superb variety of bars and a cellar of fine wines. They've thought of everything so you don't have to!

