

UNBOUNDED

HIDDEN WATERFALLS AROUND THE WORLD

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE BEST
FALL DESTINATIONS

INSIDE WAILUA
A NEW WAY TO
EXPERIENCE HAWAII

TRAVEL DEEPER BY
GETTING LOCAL

December 2013



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Fall's Best Destinations

By Mike Lee

Northern Norway

Scandinavian countries love to brag about their “midnight sun,” but it’s the otherworldly “northern lights” that’s the real showstopper. The Fantasia-like phenomenon is forecast to be particularly brilliant in 2013, and one of the best ways to see it is on a cruise ship out at sea away from the city lights. Norway’s iconic Hurtigruten line will run northern lights-focused voyages from the southern seaside city of Bergen to Kirkenes in the far north beginning this September. Though the darkest days won’t come until mid-December, the fall side of the winter solstice is arguably the best time to see the nightly light show for those averse to pink cheeks and frosty toes.



The Serengeti, Tanzania/Kenya

Nowhere else in the world is there a movement of animals as colossal and breathtaking as Africa’s wildebeest migration, where as many as 2.5 million white bearded wildebeest, zebra, gazelle and eland hoof it from Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park to the greener pastures of Kenya’s Maasai Mara National Reserve from July to November. On their endless search for food and water they face several obstacles, including croc-infested rivers and carnivores like lions, hyenas, leopards and cheetahs. Sign up for a dream African safari, pack some binoculars and your best zoom lens, and enjoy nature’s most amazing race.



Hervey Bay, Australia

Australia’s warm, shallow and predator-free Hervey Bay is protected by the largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island, and has evolved into the most popular resting place for Southern Hemisphere humpbacks on their 6,215-mile return journey from Antarctica. As such, it’s considered one of the best places in the world to watch these massive mammals at play. Each year from August to November, Hervey Bay is like a playground where the whales stop for up to a week to relax, do some tricks and, if obliged, hang out with eager, camera-toting tourists. Once they depart from this tranquil oasis, the whales won’t stop again until they reach the cold waters of Antarctica to gorge on krill. Watching the humpbacks leap out of the water, slap their pectorals and flap their tails is truly a once in a lifetime experience you won’t soon forget.

Traveler's Best Tips

By Adil Ertan

We teamed up with CNN to tap their network of roving iReporters; you'll get some of their best advice here.

So we teamed up with CNN to solicit advice from its seasoned iReporters and posed some questions to get them going.

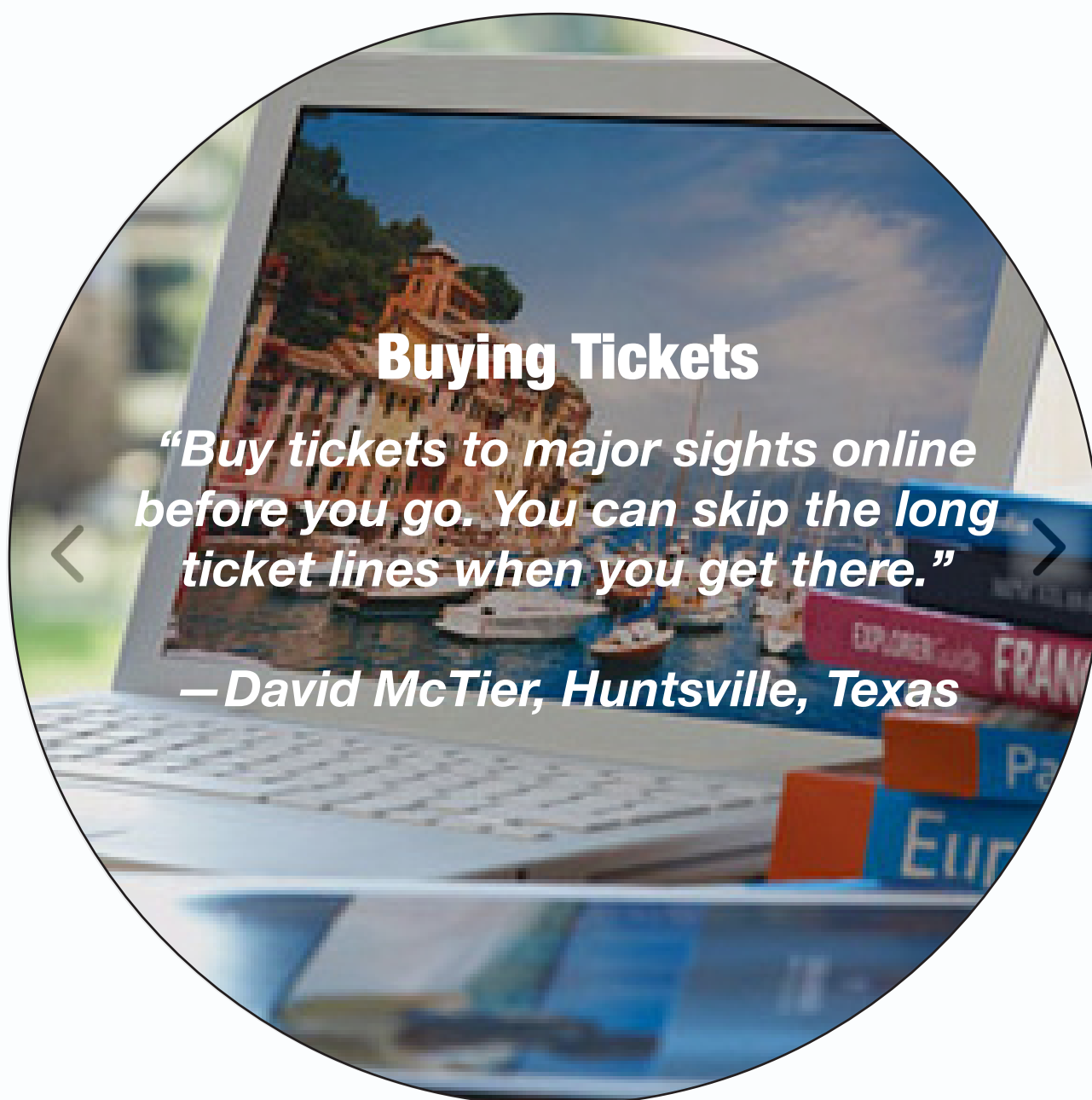
What's your secret to navigating a crowded airport? How about a tip for nabbing a table at the hottest restaurant in town? Do you have a favorite money-saving app or website?

Other iReporters chimed in with tips for packing, from keeping essential medicines in a ready-to-go bag to stashing a pair of socks in your carry-on, so you don't have to tread where thousands of travelers' bare feet have been.

Let us know if these tips have been helpful for you!



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Buying Tickets

“Buy tickets to major sights online before you go. You can skip the long ticket lines when you get there.”

—David McTier, Huntsville, Texas



“Be patient to fly don big-tic

—Matthew



Heidi Stanton

Wailua, Hawaii

Kayak Kauai on the Wailua

By Heidi Stanton



This trip, I took the speed of traveling in Kauai to a paddle my paddle pace with the Wailua Kayak and Hike Adventure. I admired the valley's beauty and now it was my opportunity to slowly explore the Wailua River, the only navigable in all of Hawaii. After meeting the group members, as the only single, I was given my own kayak, which meant that I would have more flexibility in the pace of the trip, but also, that I would be the only paddler. As a side note, the guide did offer to share his kayak with me so we would tandem, but I declined.

After some general instruction and local jokes, our guide, Jamie, suited us up for a perfect combination of kayaking, hiking, and swimming. From his explanation, I learned that Wailua means two rivers or sources of water in Hawaiian. This stems from the fact that the river has two forks both coming from the Wai'ale'ale Crater on Kauai.

The trip winded up the Wailua River. We passed other leisure and adventure seekers both in kayaks and paddleboards; however, it is by no means a busy river. There were a couple of tour boats that take visitors out to the Fern Grotto, a wonderful natural beauty and very popular wedding site, but the entirety of the trip was very pleasant, relaxing, and at an appropriate Hawaiian island pace.

After roughly an hour, we took a right to a smaller fork in the river and then through a tunnel of Hua trees (Sea Hibiscus) to our parking spot for our hiking portion of the trip and a picnic lunch at a waterfall and pool called Secret Falls.

During the hike, like all hikes in Kauai, the terrain was a bit challenging and wet. In general, the trail is moderately difficult, but with moist conditions the tree roots, leaves, and rocks that are present are definitely obstacles. I trod lightly and carefully. I brought extra hiking shoes with me that had great grips. It would be foolish and dangerous to do this hike in anything that wasn't at least a tennis shoe, hiking trail shoe, or other waterproof shoes with great support and tread. However, with my cautious speed, I was able to notice the beautiful sea hibiscus flowers, walking trees with there multi-foot trucks, and the numerous awapuhi plants, made famous by Paul Mitchell and his shampoo, but discovered and brought to Hawaii by the Polynesians.

After a short hike, we climbed across slippery rocks to arrive at the top of a hill. Looking straight across and down, we saw Secret Falls, a 100-foot waterfall and pool. This was an ideal lunch and break from kayaking and hiking. I went straight for a dip in the pool to cool off. I jumped in with my shoes on as the bottom of the pool was rocky. The water was a bit chilly, but a necessary refresher mid-day.

"If you are in Kauai, you must kayak."

The picnic spot couldn't have been pre-ordered better. It isn't everyday that you can say that you ate fresh pineapple while being surrounded by a tropical waterfall and lush landscape. And, it fueled our hike back to the kayaks. The trip via kayak was a bit of a challenge. Although going down river, we were going against ocean winds. It was certainly hard work getting back to the Wailua Marina, but doable, making progress every stroke.

If you are in Kauai, you must kayak. The Wailua is a breathtaking river and valley. The combination of kayaking, hiking, and swimming a bit made it a total-encompassing half-day adventure and worth repeating. Mahalo.