



escape

enlightened explorer



>> FOR THE LUXURY SEEKER

## ROYAL MANSOUR MARRAKECH

Royal Mansour Marrakech offers a uniquely sumptuous and exotic form of accommodation—the riad. Surrounded by the inner courtyard’s tranquil labyrinth of gardens and fountains, the Moroccan luxury hotel’s riads are accessed by their own private entrances, ensuring a discreet and exclusive escape. Each riad is its own individual palace, with multiple levels and highlights such as rooftop terraces, elegant sitting rooms, walk-in wardrobes, private pools and lavishly furnished bedrooms and baths.

Most special offers at the hotel—which include family, romance and cultural discovery options, as well as a dedicated golf package—include fast-track service upon arrival and departure at Marrakech Airport and a daily full breakfast. Don’t miss the spa treatments: Royal Mansour recently partnered with famous podiatrist Bastien Gonzalez, who works with the world’s most exclusive hotels and is known for the “Rolls Royce of Pedicures.” [royalmansour.com](http://royalmansour.com)



>> FOR THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

## NATURE VACATIONS IN GERMANY

When planning a trip to Germany, you might put cultural hotspots such as Berlin or Munich on your list. But the natural features of Deutschland are as compelling as its cityscapes and beer steins. The country’s 130 natural landscapes—including 16 national parks, 15 UNESCO protected biosphere reserves and more than 100 nature parks—are where conservation meets recreation.

Whether exploring on foot or by bike, horse, boat or car, you’ll be delighted in all of the wild, beautiful scenery. In the mountains of Harz National Park, hike fabled (or better put, bewitched) forests or chug through by steam-powered railway. Barnim Nature Park features top-notch cycling paths, castle ruins, swimming lakes and an abundance of wildlife, including wild Konik horses. Jasmund National Park’s white chalk cliffs and shimmering sea are the stuff of legend. [germany.travel/natur](http://germany.travel/natur)



>> FOR THE VIP CYCLIST

## TREK TRAVEL TOUR DE FRANCE

An official tour operator of the Tour de France, Trek Travel provides an in-depth and behind-the-scenes experience of professional cycling’s most exalted event. Take on the routes ahead of the professional peloton—riding across the starts and finishes of stages and such epic, history-filled climbs as Mont Ventoux and Alpe d’Huez—and meet the 2016 riders and team mechanics, as well as (on select tours) the famous and immensely personable Jens Voigt. Daily rides are fully supported, with flexible route options, and participants have access to some of the best viewing points of each stage. Pro-level equipment is included: a Trek Domane 5.9 carbon road bike or, with an upgrade, the Trek Émonda SLR. Trek Travel’s tour dates roughly follow those of the race, starting June 30-July 5 and ending July 18-25. Billed as a “front-row seat to history,” any one of the weeklong itineraries is a cyclist’s dream come true. [trektravel.com](http://trektravel.com)

### KATHRYN HUNTER

Kathryn Hunter is an Austin-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine*.

FRANK LIEBKE | ROYAL MANSOUR | FLANDERS



>> FOR THE BEACHSIDE BON VIVANT

## MUKUL BEACH, GOLF & SPA

The November 2015 opening of the Costa Esmeralda Airport, just 15 minutes from Mukul Beach, Golf & Spa, now makes a visit to this Nicaraguan paradise an easy endeavor. The luxury resort is a haven of adventure and luxury. Pamper yourself with spa treatments inspired by ancient healing traditions, play the greens of the Emerald Coast on a David McLay Kidd signature oceanfront 18-hole course, take a short flight to Cerro Negro Volcano and descend by “ash board,” or enjoy educational and indulgent experiences such as rum tastings and rolling cigars. Of course, the highlight of your trip may well be the accommodations: Mukul’s beach villas and treetop bohios look out on the sapphire sea, complete with butler service and plunge pools. With their handcrafted design elements, privacy and spaciousness, these storybook rooms go well above and beyond the boundaries of what you’d expect from the perfect tropical getaway. [mukulresort.com](http://mukulresort.com)

>> FOR SIGHTSEERS & STARGAZERS

## BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Summer is an especially educational time to visit Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. Mark your calendar for the 16th annual Astronomy Festival, June 1-4, which will feature astronomy presentations, workshops and constellation tours in one of America’s darkest and most stargazing-friendly locales. Or if rocks are your passion, attend the seventh annual GeoFest, July 15-17, for special programming related to the park’s earth-based wonders.

Bryce Canyon National Park has the largest collection of hoodoos—pillars of rock strangely shaped by erosion over the ages—in the world. Take in the stunning panoramas from a scenic viewpoint, or delve deeper into the park’s treasure-filled interior with a hike or a wrangler-led trip by horse or mule. [nps.gov/brca](http://nps.gov/brca)



>> FOR THE MUSIC-LOVING GOURMET

## SOUTHERN GROWN FESTIVAL

Southern tunes and cuisine take the stage June 9-12 at Sea Island resort in Georgia. The second annual Southern Grown Festival will commemorate the region’s distinctive culture with musical performances by Tedeschi Trucks Band, Jason Isbell and Dumpstaphunk, as well as interactive experiences with more than a dozen of the South’s most celebrated chefs. Take part in classes such as “Culinary Gardening,” “Cooking with Fire” and “The Art of Southern Hospitality” (a special highlight this year that focuses on porch decorating and setting the perfect Southern table). Other unique experiences range from “Storied Spirits,” where you can listen in on a good tale with drink in hand, to the pre-concert “Dinner on the Lawn” and the last day’s “Farewell, Y’all Brunch.” The all-access pass (\$950 for one person, \$1,725 for two) provides an exclusive and thorough experience of the three-day event. [southerngrown.com](http://southerngrown.com)

