

# Alaska BEYOND»

HORIZON EDITION MAGAZINE APRIL 2018

## MEMORABLE GOLF

A tour of unique and unforgettable layouts **PAGE 30**

## NEW AND NOTABLE IN BOISE

A mountain coaster, renovated city plaza and craft-beer month **PAGE 46**



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Hitting a wiffleball is harder than it looks.

**ON THE COVER:** *Kayaking in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, which includes the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, with beautiful Diablo Lake, shown; the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; and North Cascades National Park. Photo by ML Harris / Alamy Stock Photo.*

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# WELCOME»

## THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE BRIE

» **This month**, our VP of Marketing, Sangita Woerner, shares how her team has been busy in the kitchen, tasting some great new items that are popping up on our First Class menu. We hope you enjoy them! —Brad Tilden

As a marketer, one of the most important things to know is what your brand stands for, and what makes it different from everyone else. With total confidence, I can say that Alaska Airlines stands for the genuine, caring service that our employees provide to our guests every single day. Then we can start to discuss some of the other things that set us apart, like our low fares, our industry-leading Mileage Plan and our Annual Companion Fare associated with our credit card.

And there's our Signature Fruit & Cheese Platter. Our guests truly crave our Fruit & Cheese Platter. One guest wrote an entire blog about how, and in what order, to eat the three different cheeses and how to use the crackers in the most efficient manner. (I am sure you have your own special way to eat it, too.)

Alaska Airlines is proud to be your West Coast airline. That not only means giving you lots of flight options to incredible places, but it also means bringing a fresh and local West Coast vibe to your onboard experience. With our Fruit & Cheese Platter as motivation, and working with our team of culinary experts and



our catering partner, LSG, we launched our new West Coast-inspired First Class menu last month.

We asked, and you told us that “fresh and local” meant fruits and vegetables such as avocados, apples, berries, asparagus, tomatoes and kale. Starting this spring, we're weaving these fresh ingredients into new menu items in our First Class cabin. Among the choices you can sample are all-natural, strawberry-lime-flavored smoothie shots, made fresh every day. You can also try some new sweet treats such as Nancy's Fancy gelato from Los Angeles, in flavors including Amarena Cherry and Bourbon Vanilla.

For our First Class main dishes, we took inspiration from Virgin America's award-winning meals, incorporating fresh, vibrant ingredients in thoughtfully plated dishes updated quarterly to add variety and seasonality. Other First Class enhancements include a choice of two meals on all flights that serve meals. We'll also soon be featuring local West Coast wines, served and poured from the bottle, much like the experience you get at your favorite restaurants.

On our coast-to-coast and Hawai'i flights, you can preorder one of our First Class meals, which include our Fruit & Cheese Platter op-

tion, ahead of time (using our app), and we'll have it ready for you onboard. We're planning to offer First Class meal preordering across all flights early in 2019.

These changes are in First Class to start, but later this year you'll see changes to our Main Cabin meals, as well. (Don't worry, the Fruit & Cheese Platter isn't going away.) While we haven't finalized the menu yet, imagine options such as a West Coast Cobb salad with rotisserie chicken, baby spinach, cage-free hard-boiled egg, grilled asparagus and Roma tomato, with basil vinaigrette. Or smoked turkey on a baguette with Havarti, pesto, avocado and roasted tomato.

We'll also be pouring more craft brews to complement the food, starting with Ballast Point's Sculpin IPA, among other brews that will be rotated throughout the year.

Have I made you a little hungry, and thirsty, by now? We're excited about the new, fresh and local offerings to come. We'll know we've succeeded when a blogger writes an article obsessing about the Cobb salad they had onboard.

After all, the Fruit & Cheese Platter shouldn't get all the attention.

Thanks for flying with us today.

—Sangita Woerner



**Brad Tilden,**  
Chief Executive  
Officer



**Sangita Woerner,**  
VP of Marketing

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A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, stands on a balcony with a decorative metal railing. He is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background shows a blurred landscape with hills and a building under a clear sky.

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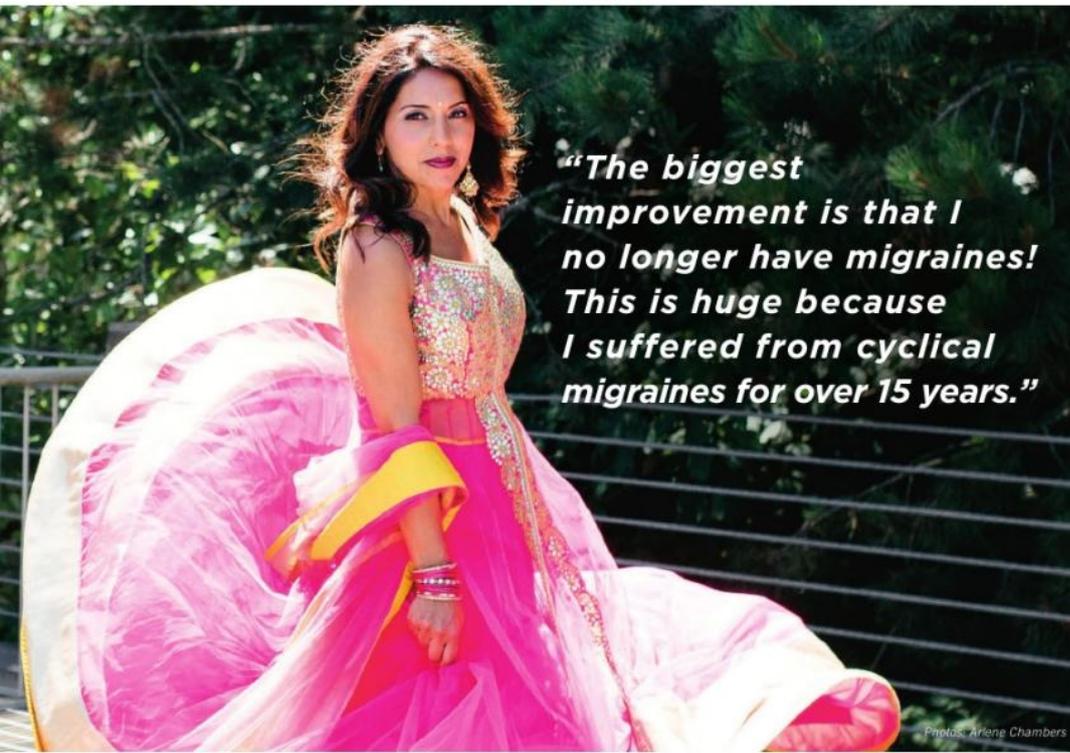
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*"The biggest improvement is that I no longer have migraines! This is huge because I suffered from cyclical migraines for over 15 years."*

Photos: Arlene Chambers



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## 10 WEEKS TO YOUR BEST YOU!

Fitness and nutrition have always been an important part of my life. Eight years ago, I picked up tennis and fell in love with this amazing sport. My passion led me to become a co-captain of four to six teams a year. This kept me busy and, over time, I spent less time with other exercise. As a result, my cardiovascular fitness and core strength declined. I ended up throwing out my back and suffered from various overuse injuries. All this, combined with intense migraines, caused me to slow down quite a bit. I gained weight, began to eat poorly due to the nausea caused by the migraines, wasn't sleeping well, and my tennis game slowed down. I really had to make a change.

My goals were simple. I didn't join the program to just lose 10 pounds. Rather, I wanted to decrease my migraines, increase my cardiovascular fitness, and build my core strength and muscle without any further injury. I was confident that my weight loss would come naturally with the changes I was about to make.

My success came from having a mindset to give it 100 percent in spite of having a busy schedule as an event planner, managing an annual cashmere sale, and being a mom to two active boys. I asked a ton of questions, never missed an appointment with my trainer or dietitian, and when I began noticing changes right away, I became even more motivated!

I absolutely loved my dietitian appointments and always came in with lots of questions. I learned so much. I thought I already knew how to lead a healthy lifestyle. I couldn't have been more wrong! I also loved the personal training, which I continue to this day because I'm motivated to keep the results I worked so hard to attain. Plus, it adds a sense of accountability. My tennis game is better than ever! The beauty care was a great bonus. I'd been using the same skincare products for several years and although my skin looked great, I loved my new line of products and all the tips I got on how to maintain beauty as I age.

The biggest improvement is that I no longer have migraines! This is huge because I suffered from cyclical migraines for over 15 years. In fact, they had escalated so much in the last three years that I'd even ended up in the emergency room. I'm still so surprised by this result. I believe that everything combined - exercise, nutrition, reducing stress, better sleeping habits - is what did it. My goal was to reduce my migraines. I never thought I'd ever eliminate them completely!

My Best 10 is truly special and I received much more than I ever expected.

# IN THE KNOW»

## WHAT'S NEW: ALASKA LOUNGE COMING TO JFK

» This month, Alaska Airlines is opening its first Alaska Lounge on the East Coast, on the mezzanine level of Terminal 7 at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Alaska operates 14 flights a day to New York's JFK and offers connections to many international destinations through its global partners.

Picture a living room with a barista. The new Alaska Lounge in JFK will offer handcrafted coffee and tea beverages made by our Lounge Baristas. Hungry? Enjoy fresh and local complimentary food offerings, featuring oatmeal and yogurt bars in the morning and salad and soup in the afternoon and evening. Looking to unwind? Head to the bar for local beer and wine, and signature cocktails.



Architectural renderings show plans for the Alaska Lounge at JFK.

Over the next year, you will start to see other Alaska Lounges undergo upgrades designed to make your travel more comfortable, more productive and a lot more enjoyable. And in 2019, Alaska will open its new flagship 15,000-square-foot Alaska Lounge in Seattle. Alaska continues to be the only do-

mestic airline providing all paid First Class guests with complimentary access to airport lounges.

Not an Alaska Lounge member? Visit an Alaska Lounge or [alaskaair.com/content/airport-lounge/join-renew](http://alaskaair.com/content/airport-lounge/join-renew) to join. Or try us out by purchasing a day pass for only \$45.



## NEW TUNES TO FLY BY

» Alaska Airlines has hit play on a new airport music experience, launching in the Seattle area.

Earlier this year, the airline began testing music at the check-in counters at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Inspired by Virgin America's airport music, Alaska is bringing audio to life with state-of-the-art equipment and curated playlists.

"We wanted to incorporate music into our check-in experience to keep this beloved part of the Virgin America brand alive," says Natalie Bowman, Alaska's managing director of marketing and advertising.

Alaska's sound incorporates West Coast artists and music tracks that inspire travel and discovery.

Selections include songs by John Mayer, Coldplay, Justin Timberlake, Lana Del Rey, Maroon 5, Bruce Springsteen, and Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers. As an example, the playlist "Most West Coast" features music from the Portland-based band The Decemberists and from other musicians based in Western states.

Alaska began developing a music strategy in 2017, led by Erika Fogarty, then head of brand creative at Virgin America. The team met with several music vendors before choosing PlayNetwork, which manages music for other major brands.

"At Sea-Tac, PlayNetwork designed and installed a custom home-theater-style Sonos audio system, specific to our check-in lobby, and worked with us to curate our brand playlists," Fogarty says.

For now, guests hear the new music only at Sea-Tac, but an expanded rollout is being considered for select airports in 2018, with the goal of having customized music systemwide by 2020.

"Music is an element that we wanted to make even bigger and better as part of Alaska's travel experience, since it's quite popular," says Bowman. "We are excited that it's coming to life." —Dianne McGinness

### ALASKA SAMPLES

The following are a couple of the playlists you may hear at Sea-Tac, and some of the songs from each playlist:

#### Most West Coast

- *Want You Back*, Haim
- *What Lovers Do*, Maroon 5, featuring SZA
- *Here I Dreamt I Was an Architect*, The Decemberists

#### That's How We Fly

- *Learning to Fly*, Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers
- *Stargazing*, Kygo, featuring Justin Jesso
- *Something Just Like This*, The Chainsmokers and Coldplay



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## GREENER IN FLIGHT

» Terms such as “green” and “sustainable” reach far and wide these days, but efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle resources also reach up into the skies. While Alaska Air Group puts great effort into improving its sustainability measures throughout its operations, its progress in flight is particularly notable. The company now operates more than 300 aircraft, making more than 1,200 departures daily. Following are a few of the initiatives that are leading to greener skies:



### » Fleet Efficiencies

Alaska Air Group has one of the youngest commercial fleets in the country and in recent years has made commitments to purchase some of the most efficient, leading-edge new jet aircraft from Boeing and Airbus.

- Alaska Air Group is the highest-ranking carrier on the 2017 Dow Jones Sustainability Index (North America).
- Boeing 737 MAX aircraft entering Alaska’s fleet in 2019 will be about 13 percent more fuel-efficient than its older 737s. Virgin America’s new Airbus A321neos are up to 20 percent more efficient than its older models.

■ Alaska Airlines has been recognized as the most fuel-efficient carrier in the nation for seven years in a row by The International Council on Clean Transportation.

- Split scimitar winglets on the tips of Alaska’s 737s save more than 5,800 gallons of fuel per year per aircraft.
- In 2016, Alaska flew the first-ever commercial flight using biofuel derived from wood residues.
- Employing RNP (Required Navigation Performance)—a satellite-based navigation technique Alaska pioneered to define more direct aircraft routing—Alaska and Horizon saved an estimated 1.2 million gallons of fuel last year.

### » In the Cabin

In 2017, more than 1,900 tons of inflight waste was diverted from landfills. Credit here the ingenuity of employees who have championed initiatives that take advantage of new technology to make operations more efficient and less wasteful, and the willingness of employees to come together and create change.

- Improvements in technology and operational efficiency save about 24 million sheets of paper each year.
- Since 2010, waste to landfill has declined 54 percent per passenger.
- A switch to 100 percent recycled-content

paper for aircraft toilet tissue, facial tissue, cocktail napkins and paper towels has saved more than 665 tons of trees each year since 2010.

- In 2017, Alaska and Horizon flight attendants collected 82 percent of all newspapers, cans, plastic cups and other recyclable materials onboard their aircraft. Several crews have collected 100 percent.
- Horizon Air started onboard recycling efforts in the late 1980s. Alaska and Horizon flight attendants have even added composting to their routine, collecting coffee grounds. That’s taking sustainability to new heights. ■





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## VALLEY IN BLOOM

» Approximately 14,000 acres of fruit trees blossom with vibrant pink and white flowers during **Hood River Valley Blossom Time**, April 1–30, in the Hood River area, about 65 miles east of Portland. During the month, you can enjoy family-friendly farm events, craft shows, wine and cider tastings, and culinary treats.

To see some of the best views of the bloom time, visitors can follow the **Hood River County Fruit Loop**, a scenic 35-mile self-guided driving/biking route that passes a plethora of pear, cherry and apple orchards, as well as vineyards.

The loop includes suggested stops at

more than 20 farms, wineries and cideries. These attractions provide an opportunity for visitors to meet local growers, taste fresh produce, view beautiful landscaped grounds and sample homegrown wines and hard ciders.

Stops along the route include **Mt. Hood Winery**—*Wine Press Northwest's* 2016 Oregon Winery of the Year—to taste award-winning Columbia Gorge wines while enjoying stunning backdrops of Mount Hood and Mount Adams.

At **The Gorge White House**, a century-old farm in the heart of Hood River Valley, you can sample pear wines and ciders,

taste delicious farm-to-table pizzas and sandwiches, and enjoy a stroll through flower fields.

On April 21, the **Hood River Hard-Pressed Cider Fest** provides an opportunity to taste more than 50 unique ciders from 50 local and regional cideries. The event features live music, food carts and a children's area.

The **Gorge Artists Open Studio Tour**, April 20–22, showcases artworks from area artists at more than 40 studios around the Gorge.

For more information, visit [hoodriver.org](http://hoodriver.org). —Chhavi Mehra

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VANCOUVER, WA  
PADDLE PLAY

» **Take a one-hour** guided kayak tour on Washington's Vancouver Lake during **Spring Paddle Festival**, April 28–29. The approximately 2,800-acre lake, which is located about 15 miles north of Portland, has shallow, peaceful waters that are ideal for kayaking and canoeing, and hosts many competitions throughout the year.

At the Spring Paddle Festival, you can also try standup paddleboard (SUP) yoga or on-land yoga geared toward strengthening muscles used for paddleboarding.

Beginning paddlers can benefit from first strokes classes—one-hour introductions to kayaking and canoeing that focus on basic paddle strokes, balance and safety.

The festival's clinics also give more-experienced attendees the chance to hone skills such as boating in different weather conditions and navigating an expedition. In addition, clinics highlight local and Pacific Northwest paddling destinations, as well as offering packing tips to help prepare for excursions.



More than 100 watercraft, such as sea kayaks, fishing kayaks, pedal kayaks, canoes and standup paddleboards, all made by Northwest manufacturers such as Eddyline Kayaks and Sterling Kayaks, will be available to try on the water. Life jackets will be provided during the event.

Local coffee and drinks will also be available from vendors along the banks of the lake.

For more information, visit [aldercreek.com/spring-paddle-festival](http://aldercreek.com/spring-paddle-festival).

—Chhavi Mehra

BOZEMAN, MT  
BOZEMAN BREWS

» **Enjoy award-winning** Montana brews during **Bozeman Craft Beer Week**, May 5–12. The festival will feature a series of beer-centric events at more than 20 establishments in Bozeman.

Local breweries being showcased include Bozeman Brewing Company and Madison River Brewing Company, both of which were honored with gold medals at the 2017 North American Beer Awards—Bozeman Brewing Company for its Plum Street Porter and Madison River Brewing Company for its Salmon Fly Honey Rye session beer.

In addition, 10 local breweries will work together to craft a special beer for the festival, which will be featured at restaurants and bars throughout the area.



The fun starts on Saturday, May 6, with a kickoff celebration, homebrewing demos and a beer trivia event. On May 7, the Beerlympics will include a beer-barrel tug-of-war (similar to a normal tug-of-war, but while standing on a keg) and a relay race consisting of apple bobbing, a leapfrog race and a keg slalom, in which contestants roll a keg down a slalomlike course.

At local restaurants around town, visitors can enjoy beer-and-food pairings, including

pairings with beer and burgers at Copper Whiskey Bar & Grill, May 7. While at a brewing demonstration presented by Bunkhouse Brewery, May 9, attendees can learn how different types of beers are made. The Montana Brewers Association Spring Brewers Rendezvous, on May 11, features samples of beer from local brewers, as well as live music.

Local pet store Dee-O-Gee is even getting in on the Beer Week festivities. The shop will host a Yappy Hour with “beer” tastings for dogs—featuring bone broth bottled in beer-bottle shaped containers, from Bozeman's Happy Dog Beer Co. For more information, visit [bozemancraftbeerweek.com](http://bozemancraftbeerweek.com).

—Chace Mortimer-Davy

FROM TOP: ALDER CREEK KAYAK SUPPLY INC.; STEPHANIE MILLER

# SCHICK'S TREATMENT PROGRAM WORKS AND IT CAN WORK FOR YOU TOO!

A first-of-its-kind imaging study was conducted by Schick Shadel Hospital and the University of Washington. In the study, scans showed reduced craving-related brain activity after chemical-aversion therapy. Functional MRI scans taken before and after treatment showed significant changes in the brain among 13 subjects. Sixty-nine percent of the participating patients reported still being sober 12 months after treatment. Read the full study online at [SchickShadel.com](http://SchickShadel.com).

*"After trying several different treatment options, I finally went to Schick and it worked! I wish I'd gone there first. Thank you Schick Shadel!"*

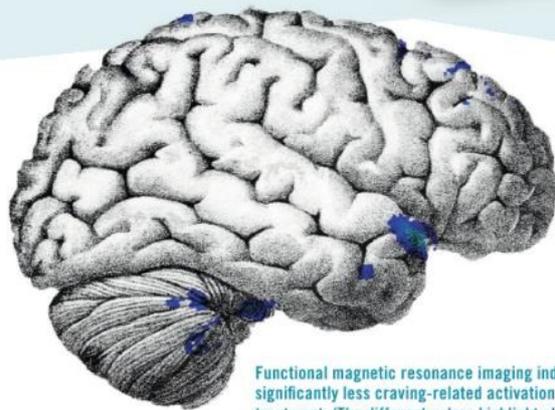


## fMRI: A BRAIN STUDY OF ALCOHOL CRAVINGS

### PRE-TREATMENT



### POST-TREATMENT



Functional magnetic resonance imaging indicates significantly less craving-related activation in the brain after treatment. (The different colors highlight changes between pre-and post-therapy but have no meaning beyond that.)

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RENO, NV

UKE IT UP

» **Renowned ukulele musicians**, including six-time Grammy Award winner Daniel Ho, will perform during the **Reno Ukulele Festival**, May 2–5. The festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary with its biggest lineup yet, with 15 musicians. Uke couples, such as Craig Chee and Sarah Maisel, and Victoria Vox and Jack Maher, will take the stage, along with Seattle jazz virtuoso Michael Powers and other solo musicians. Attendees can enjoy four days of workshops and entertainment at one of the largest ukulele festivals in the continental United States.

Daily workshops are designed for experience levels ranging from beginner to advanced. Participants can develop skills in songwriting and music composition; venture into different styles or techniques such as clawhammer and island strums; and explore various music genres such as jazz, country and Americana.

Some of the workshop classes are taught by the professional performers, including Ho and



Powers, as well as Peter Luongo of Canada's Langley Ukulele Ensemble.

In addition, the festival will offer mini workshops, in which visitors can try playing ukuleles with the help of knowledgeable event staff.

A musical marketplace, with booths from ukulele manufacturers such as DaSilva Ukulele Co., Kala Brand Music Co. and Ohana Music, will feature various types of ukes—ranging from vintage to new, and low-budget to collector edition. The festival will also feature a Super Raffle, through which several visitors can win ukuleles worth thousands of dollars.

For more information, visit [ukulele.cafe](http://ukulele.cafe).

—Elisha Rosli

MOSCOW, ID

RENAISSANCE REVELRY

» **Experience the spirit** of the Renaissance during the **Moscow Renaissance Fair**, May 5–6, in Moscow, Idaho's East City Park.

The festival, which incorporates aspects of a traditional Renaissance fair, celebrates spring rebirth and Renaissance craftsmanship. The fair's juried craft show, for instance, will feature 100 vendor booths offering art and handmade goods crafted by artisans from around the country. And the decorations throughout East City Park will be handcrafted.

Attendees can watch or participate in a Maypole dance, in which dancers hold colored ribbons and weave around a large pole, and can compete in a costume

contest with awards for attire. Two stages will feature local artists playing a wide range of musical styles, including folk, rock, bluegrass, blues and urban contemporary.

The festival also hosts an array of activities for children, such as riding in a hand-built train that will transport them around the park and engaging in an Imagination Station arts-and-crafts booth.

In addition, on Saturday afternoon, a parade will move throughout the park grounds, with bagpipers and a large handmade papier-mâché dragon whose entire body will be held up by kids.

For more information, visit [moscowrenfair.org](http://moscowrenfair.org). —Chace Mortimer-Davy



■ More than 100 independent films are being screened during the **Ashland Independent Film Festival**, April 12–16 in **Ashland, OR**, about 15 miles south of Medford. Festivalgoers can also enjoy a series of educational panels and an awards ceremony ([ashlandfilm.org](http://ashlandfilm.org)).

■ The largest exhibition ever staged at **Seattle's MoPOP Museum**, "**Marvel: Universe of Superheroes**," opens April 21. The exhibit showcases more than 300 original artifacts, such as artwork, costumes



and props, and explores the narratives of Marvel characters, including **Black Panther, Spider-Man** and **Jessica Jones** ([mopop.org](http://mopop.org)).

■ Scenic **Convict Lake**, in the Mammoth Lakes area, hosts the **Roundup at the Lake** fishing derby April 29–June 14. Participants have the chance to catch trophy-size fish such as rainbow trout in the lake's pristine waters ([convictlake.com](http://convictlake.com)).

■ Visitors can enjoy newly released wines, chat with winemakers and gain insight into the winemaking process during **Walla Walla Spring Release Weekend**, May 4–6 in **Walla Walla, WA**. Many wineries will host activities such as winemaker dinners and live music ([wallawalla-wine.com/spring-release-weekend](http://wallawalla-wine.com/spring-release-weekend)).

FROM TOP, KELLY ANDERSON; ALL RED / © 2017 MARVEL



## CENTRAL WASHINGTON

## SASQUATCH! MUSIC FESTIVAL

» **A spectacular lineup** with a wide range of award-winning and cutting-edge bands will be featured at the **Sasquatch! Music Festival**, May 25–27 at the **Gorge Amphitheatre** in George, about 150 miles southeast of Seattle and about 50 miles southeast of Wenatchee. Attendees can enjoy headliners such as Bon Iver, a two-time Grammy Award winner, and The National, which won a Grammy this year for Best Alternative Music Album. Popular indie-rock bands and musicians taking the stage will include David Byrne, Ray LaMontagne, Modest Mouse, TV on the Radio and Grizzly Bear.

In addition, hip-hop artists such as recent Grammy Award–nominated Tyler, the Creator; singer/songwriter Anderson .Paak; avant-garde electronic hip-hop artist Vince Staples; and female rapper/poet Noname will perform during the festival.

Visitors from around the country enjoy “squatchin’ ” at this laid-back music festival, and many attendees camp on-site in designated camping areas.

The scenic Gorge Amphitheatre is a nine-time winner of Best Outdoor Music Venue by *Pollstar Magazine* and was honored with the prize for Top Amphitheater from the 2013 Billboard Touring Awards. The amphitheater sits high on a rocky hill, with a stunning backdrop of the Columbia Gorge and the Columbia River. For more information, visit [sasquatchfestival.com](http://sasquatchfestival.com). —*Elisha Rosli*

## Camping Tips

- **Get there early, with a full gas tank.** Campgrounds fill up on a first-come, first-served basis, so arriving at the venue early could mean a better camping area. The drive to and from the Gorge tends to include slow traffic, so it is advisable to fuel up your vehicle before hitting the road.
- **Be prepared to set up camp in the dark.** Given the traffic to the Gorge, campers may not be able to arrive during

daylight to set up camp and pitch tents. Having a headlamp or a flashlight is useful.

- **Stock up on food and drinks.** The festival has a small convenience store and some food vendors, but it’s good to be prepared with food and drinks before making your way to the festival. (No alcoholic beverages are permitted from outside the festival.) —*E.R.*



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# Naturally Wonderful

SCENIC NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SITES IN THE WEST BY ANDREW WAITE

» Mountain peaks cradle glaciers behind the turquoise ribbon of Diablo Lake in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex in Northwestern Washington. The complex is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

ZOONAR GMBH / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

» **Charlie, our 16-pound terrier mutt**, seems to think he's our coxswain. From the bow of our canoe, he lets out a ferocious bark—after all, someone has to keep us in line. My wife, Kathleen, and I just laugh as we glide atop the teal surface of Washington's Diablo Lake, which is part of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Kathleen and I have been laughing a lot this weekend—whether performing cannonballs off our campsite's dock or drifting in inner tubes as we splash in the afternoon sun. Now we're paddling from Ross Dam, and we've just exited a narrow channel, bor-



dered by steep cliffs rising like roller coaster hills. I watch the swirl made by my paddle, just like I did canoeing as a boy, and listen for the serenade of loon calls.

As we round a bend, peekaboo glimpses of glacier-carved mountaintops become full-on commanding views. Peaks such as Paul Bunyans Stump and The Needle tower ahead of our bow, and I chuckle, almost in disbelief of their beauty. My eyes follow the crests upward, and I feel just like a kid in a natural playground, a kid full of wonder.

Read on for more places to play in some of the West's wonderful National Park Service destinations. »»

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## WILD YELLOWSTONE

» **Yellowstone National Park** is the only place in the United States where bison have been living continuously since prehistoric times. Today, the Yellowstone herd has thousands of members that roam freely in the more than 3,400-square-mile park, which is so big it touches three states: Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The Yellowstone bison are among the many wildlife species you can see—also look for animals such as bears, elk and wolves.

The Grand Prismatic Spring is wild, too. Its rings of color—blue, green, yellow and orange—are the result of unique bacteria that thrive at different temperatures. The hot spring is one of the thousands of geothermal features in Yellowstone, which itself is an active volcanic system.



## DEEP CRATER LAKE

» **The impossibly pure cobalt blue** of Crater Lake in Oregon is enough to make you stop and think. Especially when you consider that the nearly 2,000-foot-deep lake—the deepest lake in the United States—formed about 7,700 years ago as a result of the eruption and collapse of Mount Mazama, and that Wizard Island is actually a cinder cone rising more than 760 feet above the lake’s surface.

Whether you jump in the lake at Cleetwood Cove, take a boat tour, or hike some of the approximately 90 miles of trails—much of which follows the caldera rim—there are many great ways to explore Crater Lake National Park.



Naturally  
Wonderful



## GRAND YOSEMITE

» **Stare down into** the more than 3,000-foot-deep Yosemite Valley from vantages such as Glacier Point and you'll feel like you're at the top of the world. Hang out on the bank of the Merced River, eyes fixed on the silhouette of Half Dome, and you'll feel like a speck.

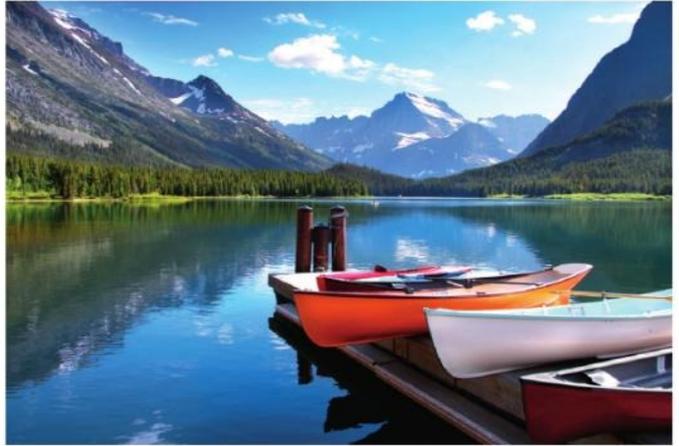
The majesty of Yosemite National Park in California has many angles. The grandeur of the park's glacier- and river-carved formations—such as El Capitan and Bridalveil Fall—are showstoppers, to be sure. But smaller treasures, like the morning sun glinting through sequoias, can sometimes steal the scene. Maybe that's the full scope of this park, not prescribing one perspective over another, but offering so many takes on natural splendor that everything you see seems just right.



## MORE NATURAL WONDERS



» **Blankets of snow** in subalpine meadows give way to fields stitched with color at **Mount Rainier National Park** in Washington. Find varieties such as broadleaf arnica and purple lupine. Wildflowers also grow in abundance at the **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument** in southwest Washington.



» **Launch a canoe** on the sapphire water of Lake McDonald, which is situated less than 5 miles from the West Glacier gateway at **Glacier National Park** in Montana. The lake—the park's biggest—is 10 miles long and nearly 500 feet deep, and was carved thousands of years ago by glaciers that once occupied this treasured pocket of land. Small boats can be rented within the park at Apgar, Lake McDonald, Many Glacier and Two Medicine.





STEPHEN SAKS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

» **Channel Neil Armstrong** (or maybe Michael Jackson) while exploring **Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve** in Idaho. Lava flows during eight major eruptive periods 15,000 to 2,000 years ago helped create the lunarlike landscape, which now covers more than 1,100 square miles. The quarter-mile North Crater Flow Trail passes volcanic features such as cinder cones and monoliths, and generally takes less than half an hour to explore.



» **Resembling a vertical stack of lumber**, the columns at **Devils Postpile National Monument** in California formed between 80,000 and 100,000 years ago as a result of lava flow that became obstructed. Several glacial periods ending about 15,000 years ago carved away one side of the postpile, exposing this formation.

# EXPLORE

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# MEMORABLE GOLF



*The 15th hole at  
Chambers Bay Golf Club.*

MARTIN MILLER



## A tour of unique and unforgettable layouts By Ken Van Vechten

» You can find the sport of golf all over the globe and in many beautiful places.

What is rare is a round that resonates, a *golf experience*. A round in which, well, sure, you'll swing the sticks and chase the rock, but the sum of it all is far more than golf's parts. It's a setting, it's a feeling and it's memories.

Well, I know a few courses that fit this description to a ... tee.

The following tracks have a variety of difficulty levels, settings and styles.

However, one element that each course offers is a memorable experience that will linger long after you've walked off the 18th green.





MLS #18298785

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**Tripleknot at Tetherow | Bend, OR**

3 BD | 3.5 BA | Office | 2,982 SF | 19308 Eaton Lane | \$814,900

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**Box S Ranch | Bend, OR**

4 BD | 5.5 BA | 4,416 SF | 280 Acres | Cascade Mountain Views | \$6,473,550

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MLS #201705146

**Bend Buildable Acreage | River View**

Deschutes River Ranch Estate Lot #9 | 3.3 Acres | \$499,000

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MLS #201801637

**Exceptional Waterfront Retreat**

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Betsey Little & Jenn Schaake | Brokers | betsey.little@cascadesir.com



MLS #201706410

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4 BD | 5 BA | 4,580 SF | \$1,525,000

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Jenn Schaake  
Broker  
541.480.1142



Betsey Little  
Broker  
541.301.8140



Deb Tebbs  
Broker  
541.419.4553



## Chambers Bay Golf Club

University Place, Washington  
chambersbaygolf.com

**Nutshell:** A testimonial to how golf can change a landscape. Chambers Bay, located about 10 miles southwest of Tacoma, is on the site of a former gravel pit.

**Overview:** One of the most overused phrases in American golf is “links-like.” However, at Chambers Bay, it is apt, owing to how the game can be played—low and running. The Puget Sound shoreline orientation simply adds to the effect.

**Seriously, It’s True:** “The dynamic trains passing by, the gorgeous views of Puget Sound and the elevation changes all make Chambers Bay one of the most unique courses I’ve played. Much like Scotland’s St. Andrews, there is a vitality to the fact that it is a public park with all sorts of activities going on around the game of golf.” —Tom Douglas, golf aficionado and Seattle restaurateur.

**Double Your Pleasure:** When you finish playing Chambers Bay, hop west across Puget Sound and embrace superior forest-and-glade golf at 36-hole Gold Mountain Golf Club in Bremerton, Washington.

## Circling Raven Golf Club

Worley, Idaho  
cdacasino.com

**Nutshell:** Birdies and eagles are good things in golf. Circling Raven is like an entire aviary.



Hole No. 8 at  
Circling Raven Golf Club.



The sixth hole at  
Coral Canyon Golf Course.

**Overview:** Circling Raven, located about 30 miles southwest of Coeur d’Alene, isn’t just golf in the West, it is golf as the West: a big-sky, broad-shouldered, friendly place to draw in a huge gulp of crisp, clean air and then take a mighty swing from the heels on a course that runs through woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.

**Seriously, It’s True:** “There is nothing to compare Circling Raven to. You’re winding through the Palouse and the trees, playing golf, and you don’t see anybody, and you don’t hear anything but the birds and animals.” —Don Verlin, dedicated golf traveler and University of Idaho men’s basketball coach.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Another impressive area layout is The Coeur d’Alene Resort Golf Course, winding along the edge of Lake Coeur d’Alene. It is home to the famous floating green on the par-3 14th hole.

## Coral Canyon Golf Course

St. George, Utah  
coralcanyongolf.com

**Nutshell:** The Scottish game

played across a John Wayne film scene.

**Overview:** Coral Canyon, located about 10 miles northeast of St. George, and its fellow area courses are splashes of green painted across a flinty pink-and-orange landscape of amazing rock outcroppings. This area is a magnet for the golf savvy; an off-the-beaten-path nexus of inspired designs, which boast Zion National Park as a backdrop.

**Seriously, It’s True:** “The charm of Coral Canyon is its setting, and how the course fits softly within its environment, like the holes have always been there, waiting to thrill.” —Keith Foster, Coral Canyon designer.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Have you ever seen bighorns scamper about ridge and slope? Sand Hollow Golf Course, about 10 miles south of Coral Canyon, asks players to tackle a layout that is nearly as geographically exciting and boasts its own amazing palette of natural colors.

## Crosswater Club

Sunriver, Oregon  
crosswater.com

**Nutshell:** Perhaps Oregon’s greatest course not on the Pacific Ocean.

**Overview:** Sitting on 600 acres, Crosswa-



[CentralOregonGolfTrail.com](http://CentralOregonGolfTrail.com)

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#36 | Nicklaus Course | Pronghorn Golf Club | Bend, OR



The eighth hole at Crosswater Club.

### Fairmont Chateau Whistler Golf Club

Whistler, B.C., Canada  
fairmont.com/whistler/golf

**Nutshell:** Now on the tee, a black bear and her three cubs. It happens on occasion at Whistler.

**Overview:** Any number of golf courses—including a majority in the West—boast of mountain views. Whistler is of the mountain. It is hard-wired into a tableau of heave and swoop, braided with streams, cloaked in evergreens and studded with granite outcroppings.

**Seriously, It's True:** "You have all the different views, and you see Whistler Village. It's just a different feeling of a course. You have all the animals—the bears, the beavers and the deer. You are playing in the forest, you are playing in their home." — Yuki Tsubota, Whistler's own Winter Olympian and winner of the 2016 Slopestyle World Cup in Mammoth.  
**Double Your Pleasure:** Big Sky Golf Club, 20 miles north in Pemberton, adds to the mountain majesty by playing through a valley beneath a ring of soaring peaks.

ter offers plenty of terra amazinga. Two rivers run through the layout; eagles nest above; wetlands abound; and snow-tipped mountains can be seen throughout. That is Crosswater.

**Seriously, It's True:** "Very few golf courses that exist anywhere can say [like Crosswater] that every single hole is memorable, challenging and beautiful. There are no ordinary holes, or views, on the entire golf course." —Drew Bledsoe, Bend resident and former Pro-Bowl NFL quarterback.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Brasada Canyons Golf Course, about 40 miles northeast of Crosswater, runs up, down and across a rocky butte, with many of Oregon's Cascade Mountain peaks in view.

### Danzante Bay Golf Club

Loreto, Mexico  
danzantebaygolfcourse.com

**Nutshell:** Scottsdale meets Pebble Beach on the Baja Peninsula.

**Overview:** Get-there-now-quality golf comes to Baja's eastern coast. If you like playing by the sea and on cliffs high above the sea—while playing through spectacular rocky desert landscape—welcome to nirvana.

**Seriously, It's True:** "Mother Nature steals the show at Danzante Bay, especially on

the golf course. Each hole builds toward the next as the geography changes and the drama unfolds." —Rees Jones, renowned course designer—including of Danzante.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Travel down to the tip of Baja at Cabo San Lucas and stay at one of the Pueblo Bonito Resorts properties so you can play the Quivira Golf Club. The course, which hugs the craggy coast, has become a top Cabo attraction.



Hole No. 7 at Danzante Bay Golf Club.

FROM TOP: MIKE HOUSKA / DOGLEG STUDIOS.COM; JOANN DOST

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The par-3 15th at the Francis H. I'i Brown South Course.

### Francis H. I'i Brown North and South Courses (Mauna Lani Resort)

Kohala Coast, Hawai'i Island, Hawai'i  
maunalani.com

**Nutshell:** This is one of the best lava-and-waves Hawaiian-golf experiences.

**Overview:** With two courses here, the best decision is just to play both. The North Course is more demanding off the tee, with stretches of threading stands of kiawe, a native tree. The South Course has, in my opinion, one of the single-greatest over-ocean holes in existence: the par-3 15th.

**Seriously, It's True:** "The courses are in immaculate condition, and the South Course, in particular, provides some of the most stunning views you'll find on the island. The sunset views on the 13th and 15th are not to be missed." —Stephen Ames, a four-time PGA Tour winner.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Waikoloa's Beach Course, a few miles south of Mauna Lani, attracts golfers to the cresting Pacific at the reachable par-5 seventh, dubbed "Hemolele" or "Perfection." The inland Kings' Course is also a great play.

### SilverRock Resort

La Quinta, California  
silverrock.org

**Nutshell:** Of the Coachella Valley's many compelling city-owned courses, Silver-

Rock is one of the most visually stunning.

**Overview:** Designed to be a PGA Tour-hosting venue (which it was for a time), and to meet the daily golf needs of residents and visitors, SilverRock succeeds with stark vertical relief. This takes a good bit of sleight of hand, given that the course is located in a pancake-flat part of the valley floor. The layout routes players around or over hazards and various collection areas, depending on ability.

**Seriously, It's True:** "With holes 14, 15, 16 and 17 running right along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, it is absolutely gorgeous coming home. And all the way around you have to hit the shots. With all the angles possible, it makes you think." —Tommy John, retired major league pitching great.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Stop by Indian Wells Golf Resort, which is located a little more than 5 miles north of SilverRock. You will find Clive Clark's garden-in-the-desert Celebrity Course and John Fought's well-crafted Players Course.

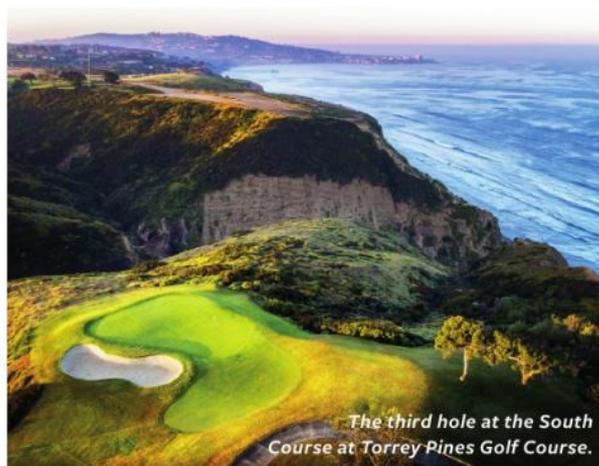
### Torrey Pines Golf Course

La Jolla, California  
torreypinesgolfcourse.com

**Nutshell:** A municipal facility that plays at the highest level of the game.

**Overview:** Who doesn't know of Torrey? Bluff top, Pacific blue, perfect San Diego weather, a guy with a torn-up leg and knee winning the Big One in 2008 (Tiger, U.S. Open). And it's tough play, in a good way, on both the North and South courses.

**Seriously, It's True:** "It's always nice to play on the same courses where they've played Tour events and major championships. Yet it really has a local feel, where it's a course that belongs to the city and the people who live here. You can get paired up with guys who have played here for 30 years, and they can teach you something new about the course every time." —Chad Coleman, head of social media, Callaway Golf Company.



The third hole at the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course.

FROM TOP: MAUNA LANI RESORT; MIKE DEGNAN

**Double Your Pleasure:** Less than 10 miles northeast of Torrey is The Grand Golf Club, a Tom Fazio layout with Daytona-like banking contours. It also offers that quintessential coastal tableau of rim and canyon.

### Wigwam Golf Club, Gold Course

Litchfield Park, Arizona

wigwamarizona.com

**Nutshell:** A gimmick-free old-school parkland course in a state known for saguaro-and-canyon golf.

**Overview:** Course design goes through trends. A good chunk of America's best plays came from that midcentury school serving up minimal trickery and rewarding strategic acumen and some brawn. That's Gold.

In a touching gesture, the resort and course annually pay tribute to our fallen



The 16th green on the Wigwam Golf Club's Gold Course.

and injured soldiers with the Patriot All-America Invitational, one of the pinnacle amateur events on the calendar. **Seriously, It's True:** "If you are playing well, you can score. If you are struggling, it can be very difficult. It is tight off the tee; the greens are exacting; and you have to be sharp with your irons. It's a true classic design." —Braden Thornberry, 2015 Patriot All-America Invitational champion and currently the second-

ranked amateur in the world.

**Double Your Pleasure:** Wigwam is gracious enough to provide three courses. However, while out here in Phoenix's West Valley, also add Verrado Golf Club's Founder's Course to your dance card.

GRAB YOUR STICKS and make your picks, for as Idaho basketball coach Verlin wisely observed, "It's a great day for a golf experience." ■

THE CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE

# WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHAMPIONS

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## Fast and Fun

Welk Resorts San Diego offers entertaining short tracks

» **Sure, we talk the talk** about playing the long courses.

However, after burning through three sleeves of Callaway Chrome Softs, posting a score that reads like a Palm Springs weather report in August and spending five-plus hours doing so ... do we want to walk that same walk tomorrow? Hello, short courses.

Many of us came to the game via something other than monstrous 18-hole championship tracks. Those shorter courses are now back in vogue. If you find yourself in northern San Diego County, Welk Resorts gives you two examples of fine short layouts: the all-par-3 Oaks Course and the hit-every-club-in-the-bag Fountains Course, an executive routing pushing 4,000 yards.

"Almost 80 percent of golfers have higher than an 18 handicap," says Evan Biundo, the head golf professional for Welk Resorts. "That is the market we serve. It's



for players of whatever ability who want a friendly golf course, one they can enjoy, where they can post better scores, not lose a ton of balls and do it with time left to get on with the rest of their day."

Let's add that the \$49 price tag for a weekend round at the Fountains is nice, too.

Biundo says play has been increasing in recent years, and not every facility, of whatever length, can make that boast. He attributes this to the allure of playability, quick rounds, low costs and the club's instructional programs. Welk Resorts is also keeping up with the times, offering alt-golf activities such as FootGolf (a hybrid sport that combines soccer and golf) and a vibrant social scene, one that taps freely into the county's craft-beer culture. And the golf is real.

No parent ever favors one child over the other, but Biundo does tout Fountains' "genius layout," where even the most avid players won't have a diet of just wedges and short irons.

Says Biundo, "You will hit hybrids, you will hit long irons; and you can pull out your driver on seven holes."—K.V.V.

FACING PAGE: ALLEN KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHY; THIS PAGE: WELK RESORTS

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## A look at the latest gear *By Ken Van Vechten*

» **It is Masters Month**, and that means it's time for everyone to tee it up. And as spring signals a fresh start, why not feel your best by taking that first swing with some new sticks and other equipment?

Marketing campaigns will have you believe that if your driver was born in 2017 or, heaven forbid, as far back as 2016, you're doing the equivalent of flying Wright Brothers Air while your buy-every-year buddy launches with Space X. Don't fall for this trap. Clubs don't go obsolete with the flip of a calendar.

However, the cycle does refresh, and if you've gone through numerous regrips, now is the time. I advise taking a look at Callaway Golf and its new Rogue driver. Proprietary internal structures, including Jailbreak technology, an aerodynamic design

assist from Boeing, lighter crown material and revised shape increase swing and ball speed, while also adding more forgiveness.

And for goodness' sake, get fitted for that new wonder stick. Even if you were fitted in the past, like fine wine, we change over time, and your specs might have changed. So don't get stuck in autopilot. The idea behind new gear is improved performance, and proper fit is an essential part of performance.

With multinational conglomerates entering and then leaving the golf industry, there's something comfortingly Sunday-supper-with-the-kinfolk about still-family-owned Ping. Golfers looking for new irons should go pound some orbs with a set of the Ping G700, noted for a high-launch, across-the-face-

» **Sergio Garcia**, the 2017 Masters champion, is hitting the Callaway Rogue driver, which uses new technology and an assist from Boeing to increase swing and ball speed.

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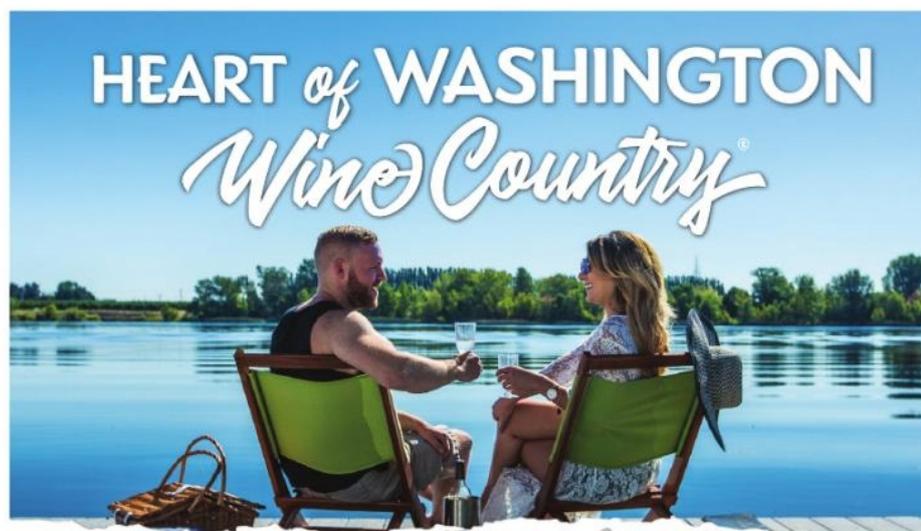
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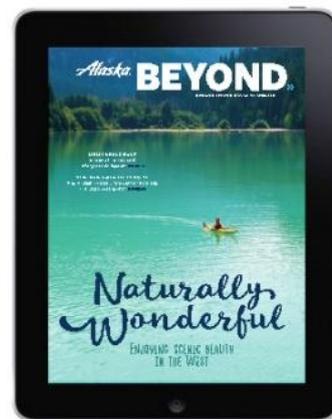


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GOLF



» Titleist launched a new version of its Vokey Design SM7 family of wedges.

forgiving hollow-body design. The clubs also boast iron-alloy faces that act like cannons. Performance is what helps us score, but aesthetics do affect the gray matter. What's really cool about these irons is they don't look like backhoes, so you have a situation where the clubs perform and you also don't mind looking at them. What's really cool about the G700 series is that when you hit them, you'll be amazed at the forgiveness.

Titleist continues to tinker with this era's most popular family of wedges. New for 2018 is a raw version of the Vokey Design SM7. Raw-finish wedges are designed to rust or develop a time-honored patina, an aesthetic effect that is popular both on tour and with folks like us. New with this iteration is a heat treatment that increases the durability of the wedges. The series offers 23 combinations of loft, bounce and grind.

If you are drawn to data like Northwesterners to Palm Springs in winter, check out Cobra Connect, a



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swing diagnostic system featuring Cobra Golf's KING F8 Irons and the Arccos tracking system. The Arccos sensors are embedded in each club in the entire KING F8 line, collecting real-time yardage stats and transmitting the information to your smartphone. Cobra includes additional Arccos sensors that screw into the end of your non-Connect clubs.

Danish company ECCO might not leave as large of a footprint as some other shoe manufacturers, but step into a pair of BIOM Hybrid 3 golf shoes and you'll know why this



**ECCO's new  
BIOM Hybrid 3 golf  
shoes offer support,  
comfort and style.**

company is special. The cleatless kicks feature many of ECCO's stock-in-trade features, including box-to-first-wear-comfy yak-leather uppers; Gore-Tex; a flexible, natural, lower profile; and a new three-zone outsole to maximize walkability, durability, stability and playability. And the roomy forefoot is a toe-wiggling departure from the narrow dress-shoe confinement of many brands.

With a new pair of BIOMs on your feet and a Rogue driver in your hands, it's time to make your way to the first tee. ■

*Ken Van Vechten writes about golf from Central California.*

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Shan Goshorn, *They Were Called Kings*, 2013

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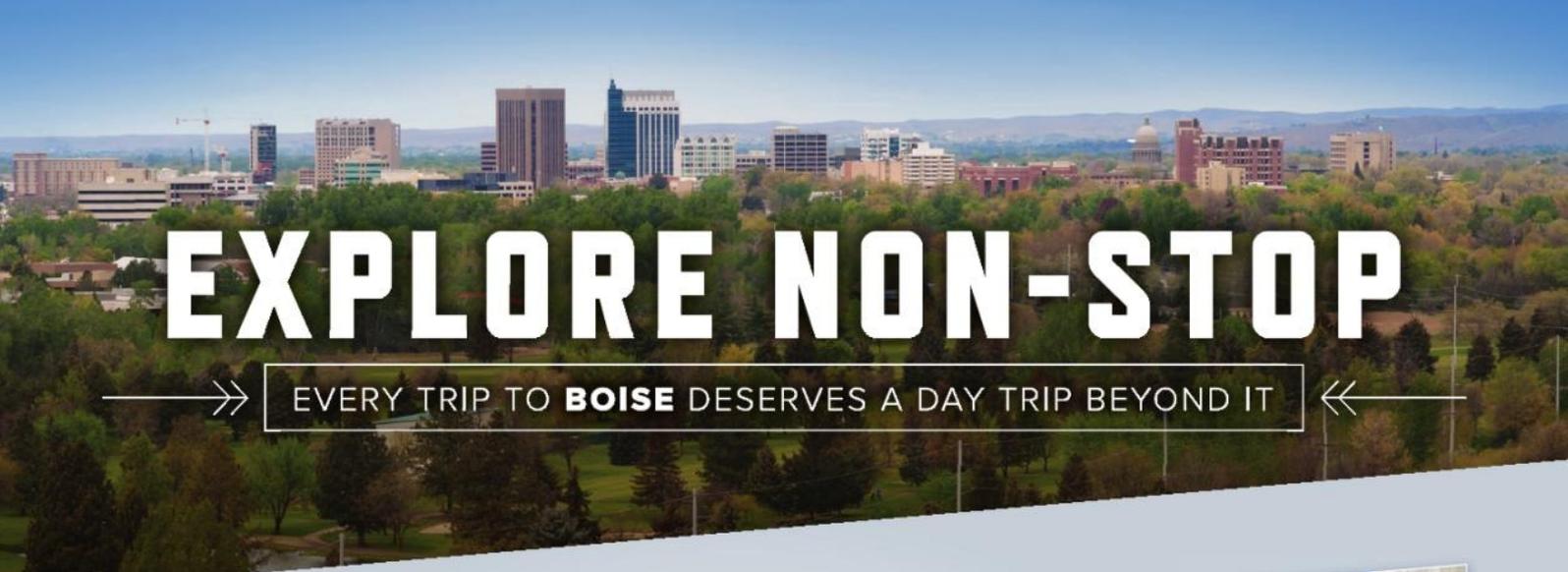
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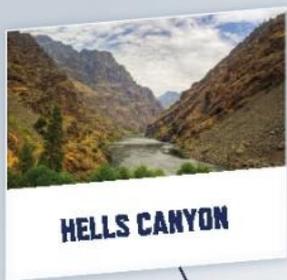
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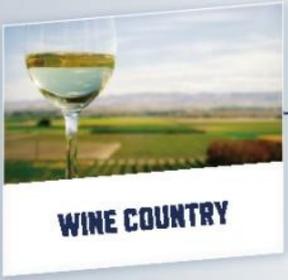
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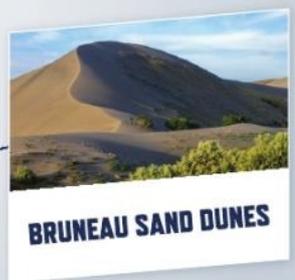
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# NEW AND NOTABLE IN BOISE

A MOUNTAIN COASTER,  
RENOVATED CITY PLAZA  
AND CRAFT-BEER MONTH

BY BUDDY LEVY

» My wife, Camie, and I stand at the loading platform for the new “Glade Runner,” a state-of-the-art mountain coaster, with a tobogganlike ride, that heads down the mountain at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area. Below us, the Treasure Valley and the city of Boise gleam in the mid-morning sunshine. It’s a glorious day, and we’re excited to experience Bogus Basin’s fun new attraction, which opened in December and operates on Fridays through Sundays

during the winter season (through mid-April this year) and daily during the summer season (late June–early September this year), with possible additional openings before ski season starts again. Children as young as 3 can ride with someone 16 or older, while those at least 54 inches tall get to ride on their own.

I hop into my sled, which is securely locked onto the rails, and latch the seatbelt. At the start of the ride, the toboggan ascends slowly and quietly amid evergreens, gaining 800 feet of elevation, then quickly descending, with sections of track 40 feet above the ground. Each rider controls his/her

» *The renovated Grove Plaza; a dog relaxing on the plaza’s new bricks; beautiful Boise in springtime; Lost Grove and White Dog beers; Main Street Station; and the “Glade Runner” mountain coaster at Bogus Basin.*

# THE GROVE PLAZA



GUY HAND



CHAD CASE / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES



SARAH JONES



CHAD KAY



LONI CARR



BOGUS BASIN



CASSIE PHIPPEN



MY GATEWAY TO

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own speed with a handheld brake lever, though at the top of the incline, the operator yells to me, “No brakes is recommended!”

I plunge at 25 mph, and instinct takes over as I hit the brakes for the first 360-degree turn. But I release the brakes for the rest of the ride—a serpentine thrill of turns, dips, twists and another 360, comprising 4,330 feet (more than three-quarters of a mile) of exhilaration. I whoop and yip my way down. Camie pulls in a minute after me, beaming. “Let’s go again,” she says. “I wanna go faster this time!”

We are in Boise for a three-day weekend getaway to enjoy some of the new activities and attractions in the area, which combines tech-company sophistication and Western chic with appreciation for nature and culture. We decided to start our adventures at Bogus Basin, less than 20 miles from downtown.

Bogus Basin, founded and run by the nonprofit Bogus Basin Recreational Association, celebrated its 75th anniversary last year by investing \$4.3 million in multiple improvements aimed at creating a recreation area that attracts people most of the year. Besides the “Glade Runner,” improvements include a “fun zone,” with a bungee trampoline; a gem-mining and gold-panning station; a 32-foot-tall climbing wall; and summer tubing down 300-foot-long slides—you can zoom down at 25 mph, then take the magic-carpet surface lift back up to the top for more.

Bogus Basin also has a new bike skills park and a

new 1.3-mile downhill mountain-biking trail called Berm Baby Berm, complementing what is already some of the best mountain biking in Idaho. For instance, the acclaimed Around the Mountain trail is an approximately 10-mile loop with various uphill sections and some fast downhills, plus fantastic city and mountain views.

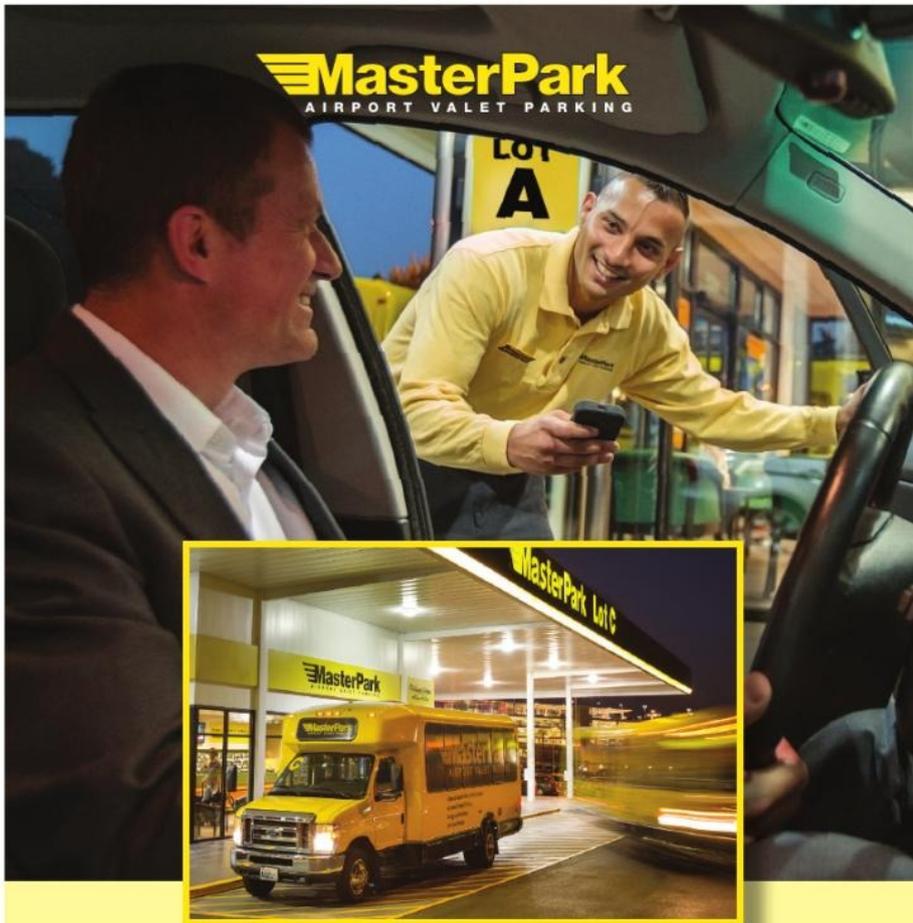
» Left and above: The climbing wall and summer tubing runs at Bogus Basin. Below: The Inn at 500 Capitol.

## THE GROVE PLAZA

Back at our luxurious hotel home for the weekend, the Inn at 500 Capitol—which opened last year on Capitol Boulevard and is just a half-mile south of the Idaho State Capitol building—we relax with drinks in front of the fireplace before exploring the next destination on our itinerary.



The Grove Plaza—the center of Boise’s vibrant downtown area—is a few blocks northeast of the hotel. The 1986 outdoor plaza, which hosts more than 70 outdoor events each year, ranging from cultural



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festivals to large-scale music concerts, has undergone a full renovation and celebrated its grand reopening last June. Additions include shade structures, open Wi-Fi access, new picnic tables, movable seating and furniture, and green stormwater infrastructure. Newly laid red bricks give the area a clean and tidy look. The Alive After Five free summer concert series takes place in the plaza every Wednesday evening, June 6 to August 29 this year.

The plaza is encircled by several major commercial buildings, as well as recreational venues such as CenturyLink Arena and the Boise Centre convention and tradeshow facility. The area sparkles with lights as we cross the plaza and head into CenturyLink Arena, which hosts the Idaho Steelheads professional minor league hockey team, along with mixed martial arts competitions, concerts and special events. College-hoops fans will be excited to know that from 2019 through 2021, the 5,300-seat arena will host the Big Sky Conference men's and women's basketball championships.

Boise Centre has undergone its own expansion, totaling \$47.5 million, and now has four levels, 31 meeting rooms and 86,000 square feet of versatile event space, complete with up-to-date technology, to accommodate groups from 20 to 1,600. The center also has a new ballroom seating up to 800 guests. Events can be catered with locally inspired menus from Boise Centre's experienced inhouse culinary team.

The next day, as part of a leisurely morning spent exploring 43-acre Julia Davis Park and then strolling around downtown Boise to view public art, Camie and I check out the new Main Street Station, an underground public-transit center

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that opened about a year and a half ago adjacent to The Grove Plaza. The station displays seven pieces of public art, both on the walls and on the ground. Some of the artwork represents beloved local activities such as skiing and mountain biking, and I particularly like the “Keep Moving People” sign, by artist Stephanie Inman, that I see as we descend stairs that lead to buses. The sign lettering is a collage of Boise residents’ broken and unwanted transportation-related toys—such as miniature cars, buses, bikes, trains and planes—whose recycling as art has kept them out of a landfill.

## IDAHO CRAFT BEER

By early afternoon, it’s time for lunch and a beer, and we visit The Ram Restaurant and Brewery, near the Boise River, at Park and Broadway. The Ram is one of the more than 20 craft breweries in the Boise area. Behind the bar, beautiful chalk art depicts the Spanish-style Boise Depot and the Renaissance Revival-style Idaho State Capitol Building.

The Ram’s interesting pub food—ahi poke nachos, beer-cheese fondue and fried pickle chips, as well as burgers (including the plant-based Impossible Burger), steaks, salads and ribs—complements the award-winning craft beers. I order the smooth, flagship Hometown Blonde, and also learn more about seasonal beers such as the hop-happy, caramel-colored Lost Reindeer and the Mellow Out Stout,

a nutty, full-flavored, malty brew that last year received a bronze medal in a North American Brewers Association competition.

The Ram bartender tells us about three new downtown breweries that opened in 2017—White Dog, Lost Grove and Clairvoyant—and about Idaho Craft Beer Month, which takes place throughout the month of April across the state. The monthlong celebration, now in its second year, is a joint venture of Idaho Brewers United and Idaho Tourism, aimed at raising awareness about Idaho as a craft-beer destination.

The event kicks off April 5 with “Pints Up, Idaho!” in which participating venues statewide provide commemorative pint glassware when you order an Idaho craft beer. The closing festival, April 28, showcases beers from many of Idaho’s approximately 60 breweries. It is held outdoors under event tents, near



» The Ram Restaurant and Brewery’s plant-based Impossible Burger, paired with a Ram ale.

## NEW LODGINGS

*Here are some of the recently opened or scheduled-to-open options in Boise:*

**Inn at 500 Capitol** ([innat500.com](http://innat500.com)) is an upscale boutique hotel, with 111 rooms, that opened in early 2017. Staff members greet guests at check-in with a complimentary glass of regional wine. Some rooms feature decor by local artists, as well as gas fireplaces, and the 500-plus works of art throughout the hotel also frequently spotlight local artists and scenes. The inn also has a fitness center, complimentary-use cruiser bikes, and com-

plimentary shuttle service in Mercedes vehicles to and from the Boise Airport and within a 4-mile radius of the hotel (bike use and shuttle service are based on availability).

**Hilton Garden Inn Boise Downtown** ([boisedowntown.hgi.com](http://boisedowntown.hgi.com)), scheduled to open this summer, is a 132-room hotel that will include amenities such as an indoor pool, a fitness center, and a complimentary availability-based airport shuttle.

**Marriott’s Residence Inn Boise City Center/Downtown** ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)), a 185-suite hotel that opened in October, has vibrant, stylish studios that feature cityscape

views and fully equipped kitchens, as well as sitting areas with sofa beds. The one- to two-bedroom suites have separate living rooms. Hotel amenities include an indoor pool, a fitness center, a complimentary availability-based airport shuttle, and a hip rooftop patio with comfy chairs, three grills, and fireplaces and firepits.

**Hyatt Place Boise/Downtown** ([boisedowntown.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html](http://boisedowntown.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html)), which opened in spring 2017, has 150 guestrooms equipped with separate sitting areas and sofa beds. Hotel amenities include a fitness center, an outdoor pool, and complimentary availability-based airport shuttle service. —B.L.

White Dog Brewing Company and Julia Davis Park, downtown. From 1 P.M. to 5 P.M., the festival will be family-friendly, including food trucks, games such as cornhole and live music. After 5 P.M., it is a 21-and-older event.

Camie and I leave Boise rejuvenated and impressed by our experiences here. From Bogus Basin to The Grove Plaza, to the growing brewery scene, the City of Trees continues to offer new and improved recreational options that are well worth a visit. ■

*Freelance writer and book author Buddy Levy lives in North Idaho.*

*Alaska Airlines (alaskaair.com) provides regular service to Boise, where the Metropolitan Statistical Area was ranked No. 1 by Forbes in its America's Fastest-Growing Cities 2018 list, published in February. For more information about Boise recreation, see boise.org and visitidaho.org.*

## MORE RECREATION

**Basque Block** (thebasqueblock.com): Boise has one of the country's largest Basque communities, totaling more than 16,000 people.

Enjoy items such as salt cod, paella or other delicious representative fare at Leku Ona, Bar Gernika and The Basque Market. Visit the Basque Museum and Cultural Center to learn about sheepherders and the history of the Basque in Idaho. In addition, the Basque History Mural on Capitol Boulevard, near Grove Street, depicts Basque explorers, sports and sheepherding. Performing groups include the Oinkari Basque Dancers. And the San Inazio Festival, an annual event to honor St. Ignatius of Loyola, the patron saint of Basques, takes place the last weekend in July each year, and features local musicians and dancers, along with Basque sporting events.

**Boise River Greenbelt** (parks.cityofboise.org/parks-and-facilities/parks/greenbelt): Twenty-five miles of paved urban pathway wind through the city, connecting pedestrians and cyclists to many popular riverside parks.



Oinkari Basque Dancers.

STEVE BLY / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

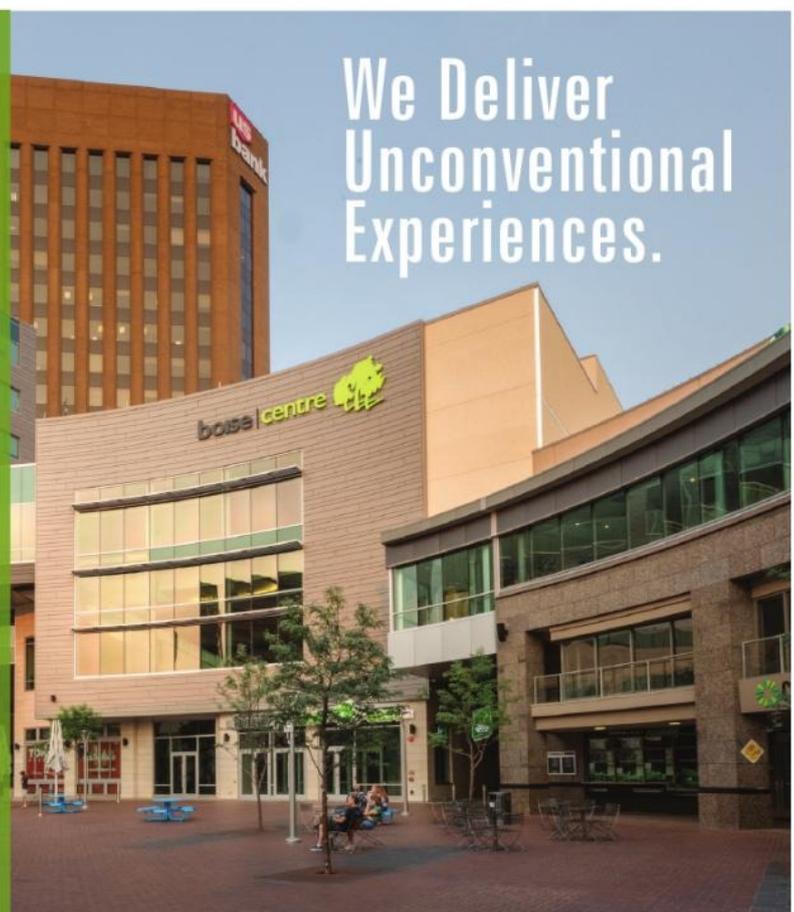
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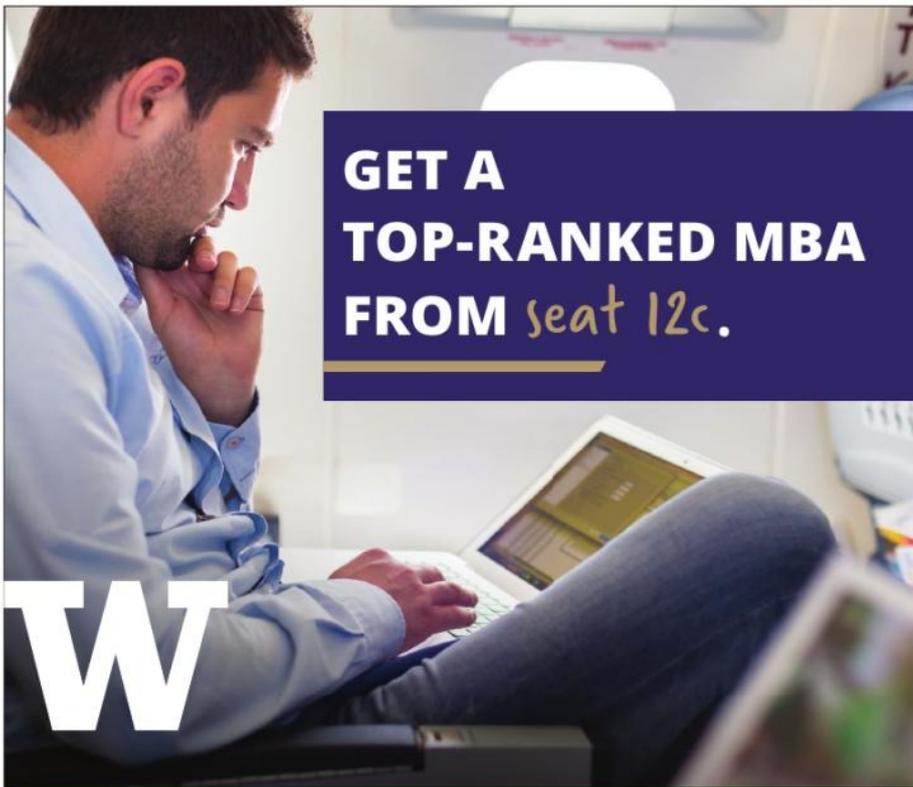
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CHAD CASE / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Look for heron rookeries in the trees lining the path, and for Idaho Birding Trail signs to identify numerous bird species. Fishing on the Boise River is accessible via the greenbelt (license required). Guided trips are offered by Idaho Angler ([idahoangler.com](http://idahoangler.com)).

**Idaho Capitol** ([capitolcommission.idaho.gov/about/](http://capitolcommission.idaho.gov/about/)): The state's most iconic structure—208 feet tall, including the impressive dome—was begun in the early 1900s, with subsequent renovation and restoration. Original architect John Everett Tourtellotte and his firm wanted to capture “the great white light of conscience,” so they used reflective marble surfaces inside, as well as skylights that capture natural sunlight and direct it to the interior. The capitol is heated by geothermal water. Guided and self-guided tours are available.

**Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center** ([bee.cityofboise.org/visit/foothills-learning-center/](http://bee.cityofboise.org/visit/foothills-learning-center/)): Hike, view art, and learn about the high-desert environment of the Boise Foothills at this learning center located less than 2.3 miles from the capitol. The paths and grounds around the building are lined with native, drought-tolerant grasses and wildflowers. Signage for outdoor public art; a pollination garden and beehives; and a kids' quarter-mile, self-guided Story Trail (with rotating stories every month) make finding your way around a breeze. You can also park here as gateway to Boise Foothills trails. —B.L.



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# EXPLORE



## THE EUGENE / SPRINGFIELD AREA

Outdoor adventures in Lane County

By Sophia McDonald Bennett

» As my 5-year-old daughter wheels her bike toward concrete picnic tables under an arbor covered with pink climbing roses, she calls out, “Mommy! It looks like a princess garden!”

I can understand how she’d see Eugene, Oregon’s Owen Rose Garden as a place royalty might hang out. Beyond the arbor are rectangular beds brimming with rose bushes such as Marmalade Skies and Champagne Cocktail. Patches of soft grass are interlaced with the brown dirt. And the garden is rimmed with tall trellises, some of which have the rose canes trained into heart shapes. As we sit down to eat our peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and apple slices, my other daughter says, “What’s that smell?”

“It’s the flowers, sweetheart,” answers my husband, Chris. A heady perfume of sun-kissed blooms is wafting from the beds nearby. The Owen Rose Garden was created in 1951 after former city councilman George Owen donated 5 acres of land to the City of Eugene. The city acquired additional land to bring the park to 8.5 acres, and soon afterward, the Eugene Rose Society placed 750 rose bushes along walkways and in neat beds. Today there are more than 4,500 rose bushes, representing 400 varieties, in the park.

After we polish off our sandwiches and some homemade chocolate chip cookies, we stroll a nearby path to connect with a paved trail that runs alongside the Willamette River on the northeast side of the park. Soon we come to one of the green space’s other stars: a giant cherry tree likely planted by Eugene Skinner, who founded the city in the early 1850s. The 60-foot-tall heritage tree, with an 80-foot canopy, has tentaclelike arms that extend far from the massive trunk—so far, in fact, that some of them have to be propped up by steel posts. Even though the tree is more than 150 years old, it still produces a healthy crop of white blossoms every spring. Determining the exact variety of this tree has proved problematic, but it is thought to be a Black Tartarian or Republican Cherry. If it’s the former, it may be the oldest such tree in the country.

» *The impressive heritage cherry tree at Owen Rose Garden.*



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The Owen Rose Garden and its beloved cherry tree are two of the many outdoor attractions in the Eugene/Springfield area and throughout Lane County. Whether you want to cycle a scenic route, photograph a 19th century lighthouse or kayak a beautiful lake, adventure awaits in this recreation-rich region.

## BICYCLING BOUNTY

“The north bike trail or the south one?” my friend Terrill asks as we begin a half-day cycling trip from Paul’s Bicycle Way of Life, a popular sales and rental shop in downtown Eugene. “I think the north trail is more scenic, but it’s up to you.”

Terrill, who has been my best friend since we were 6 years old, is much more familiar with these trails than I am, so I have no problem following his advice and pointing my tires north. It’s quickly apparent that I made the right decision. Before long we cross the Willamette River on the bicycle/pedestrian Peter DeFazio Bridge leading to the paved North Bank Path, which is part of the city’s Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path System, comprising 12 miles of pathway. Besides being an interesting architectural feature, the handsome wire suspension bridge is a symbol of the region’s commitment to providing an excellent environment for bicyclists.

Eugene has long been known as one of the country’s best urban areas for biking. *Bicycling Magazine* listed it as one of the Top 21 Best Cycling Cities in the U.S. in 2006, and in 2013, Eugene received Gold Level status from the League of American Bicyclists. In 2015, *USA Today* named the Ruth Bascom trail, with its paths on both sides of the Willamette River, one of the 10 Best Bike Rides by the Water.

Eugene’s sister city of Springfield, our destination today, has also invested significantly in bike infrastructure, and has 34 miles of shared-use paths. After riding about 4 miles from downtown Eugene along the North Bank Path, which ends at West D Street in Springfield, we use maps we downloaded from [eugene-or.gov/2312/Bicycling](http://eugene-or.gov/2312/Bicycling) and [bit.ly/SpringfieldBikeMap](http://bit.ly/SpringfieldBikeMap), along with Google Maps, to transition through Island Park to Spring-



field’s South Second Street. We consider heading from there to South A Street for a refreshment break at Chow Gastropub, which offers delicious and inventive burgers (including one with Cajun spices) or at Sprout! Regional Food Hub, which is home to many artisanal companies, from a cafe serving authentic Latin American dishes to a bakery, a brewery and a tea company.

But today, we decide to keep going south on Second Street, tackling the gnarly hill to Dorris Ranch. The Willamalane Park and Recreation District living-history farm, also on the National Register of Historic Places, has a hazelnut orchard that was first planted in 1905, likely making it the oldest commercial hazelnut orchard still in operation in the United States.

We explore the ranch’s Living History Village, which includes the Northwest Coast Native American Plank House, similar to those built before the early 1800s, and the Masterson Pioneer Homestead, a replica of a log cabin built in this area before the 1820s. Nearby we see the replica of an 1830s fur trapper cabin.

Dorris Ranch is the western access point for the 4-mile Middle Fork Path, and we pedal the trail past clusters of oak and ash trees, and



» Top: The DeFazio Bridge in bicycle-friendly Eugene. Above: The Dorris Ranch living-history farm in Springfield.

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» *The Heceta Head Lighthouse is likely one of the world's most photographed lighthouses.*

then tall evergreens, again enjoying views of the Willamette River. As we pass a mid-river island, a red-tailed hawk sails silently into a tree.

The path is fairly flat and well paved, so it's a quick ride to the trail's terminus at Clearwater Park. If we'd thought to bring Frisbees or fishing poles, we could have played disc golf on the park's course or tried our hand at catching trout (fishing license required). Instead, we breathe in the fresh air and enjoy the sound of rushing river water before our return ride.

### HECETA HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

In Lane County's coastal Florence area, the midpoint of the half-mile path that leads our family from the parking lot for the Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint beach to the lighthouse provides a stunning view of windswept cedar trees on the headland to the south. Many of the trees' branches slant away from the waves, a reminder of the powerful winds that once pushed ships dangerously close to this rocky section of the Oregon coastline.

That peril is what prompted construction of the tall white lighthouse in the early 1890s. The structure, whose light still shines, is now owned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and is said to be one of the most photographed lighthouses in the world.

Tours of the main floor are offered on various dates, weather and staff permitting (contact the park office at 541-547-3416 or email [heceta.h.lighthouse@oregon.gov](mailto:heceta.h.lighthouse@oregon.gov) at least a day in advance to check the schedule). The 15-minute tour focuses on the building's history, what the life of a lighthouse keeper was like, and the notable lens that produced the beacon. "It's a 'first order' Fresnel lens that was made in England," park ranger Ben Ervin tells us. A "first order" lens was the most powerful type made from the design of Augustin-Jean Fresnel, a French physicist who did important research into optics in the 19th century.

"The light is visible 21 miles out into the ocean," Ervin says. "That was the case even when it was not electrified and they used a lantern. That highlights the power of the lens."

No one is allowed in the top of the lighthouse, but Fresnel lens buffs can see the prisms by hiking about 100 yards up a switchback trail that adjoins the main path. There's a spot where it's possible to get a perfect view of the top of the lighthouse and the ocean beyond it. The trail is part of the Oregon Coast Trail, a 382-mile route that runs the entire length of the state. The Heceta Head Lighthouse complex also includes the original Queen Anne-style assistant lightkeeper's home, now a six-room bed-and-breakfast that's known for its seven-course morning meal. The building has been painted white, with a red roof to match the famous lighthouse.

The kids are eager for some beach time, so next we head for the sandy area by the parking lot. We build sandcastles, admire seashells, dip our toes in the salty water, and discover there are shallow caves to explore and tide pools filled with sea anemones and other creatures. (Be sure to check sites such as [weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html](http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html), including the Tidal Adjustment Table, for details



Kayaking on Waldo Lake.

about low tides, and watch the waves closely to ensure you always have a way to get back to dry land.)

**WALDO LAKE**

It's impossible not to notice how clear Waldo Lake is as soon as I dip my paddle in the water. The black oar is easily visible. Oregon's second-deepest natural lake (427 feet at its

deepest point) is fed entirely by rain and snow, which means little organic material enters via rivers and streams to cloud the water. It's located in the Willamette National Forest, less than 75 miles southeast of Springfield, and the U.S. Forest Service limits boat motor use to electric motors and speeds under 10 mph. That also helps to keep the lake clean ... and quiet.

MORE TO EXPLORE



The Currin Covered Bridge.

■ **Covered Bridges** ([eugene Cascades-coast.org/bridges/cottage-grove](http://eugene Cascades-coast.org/bridges/cottage-grove)): The small Lane County town of Cottage Grove, about 20 miles south of Springfield, is known as the "Covered Bridge Capital of the West." See six excellent examples along a 36-mile bike loop. The bridges can also be seen from the road.

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■ **Dee Wright Observatory** ([www.fs.fed.us/visit/destination/dee-wright-observatory](http://www.fs.fed.us/visit/destination/dee-wright-observatory)): This Willamette National Forest observatory, about 80 miles east of the Eugene/Springfield area, was built in 1935, with local lava rock, by a Civilian Conservation Corps crew. It has outstanding views of Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and the Three Sisters peaks. **The half-mile paved Lava River National Recreation Trail** (above) next to the observatory provides an up-close look at lava that flowed from area craters. Highway 242 to the observatory is typically open from sometime in July to late October or early November, weather permitting.



■ **Geocaching** ([eugenecascadescoast.org/geocaching](http://eugenecascadescoast.org/geocaching)): Lane County is a popular destination for this fun activity, involving “treasure hunting” with a GPS device. Try it in the region’s wine country, or along the McKenzie River, or in the mountains around Oakridge.

■ **Sandboarding** ([eugenecascadescoast.org/outdoor-adventures/sandboarding](http://eugenecascadescoast.org/outdoor-adventures/sandboarding)): Sandboarding is the sport of zooming down sand dunes. It’s popular in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area—described as the largest stretch of coastal sand dunes in North America—about 60 miles west of Eugene. (Watch out for people dune bugging, another popular

activity in this area.) Sandboarding is also available at privately owned Sand Master Park in Florence, which offers instruction, and rents boards for use onsite and in the nearby recreation area.

■ **Unofficial Simpsons Tour** ([eugenecascadescoast.org/simpsons/tour](http://eugenecascadescoast.org/simpsons/tour)): See a mural of the TV show family, along with a Simpsons statue, a plaque signed by artist Matt Groening, and sites that may have inspired parts of the show.

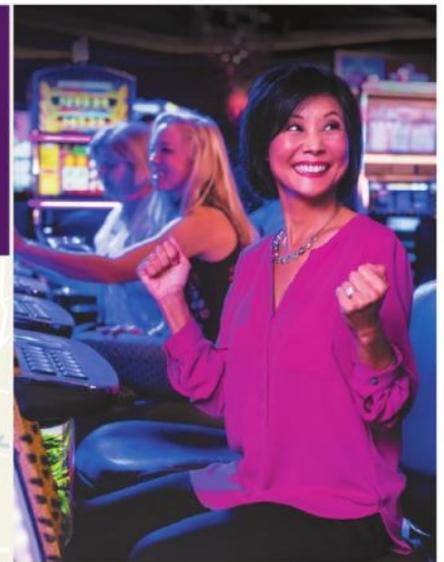
■ **Willamette Heights Park** ([willamalane.org/birdtrail/willamette-heights](http://willamalane.org/birdtrail/willamette-heights)): The park is one of Springfield’s best sites for bird-watching. It’s not uncommon to see warblers, mourning doves, downy woodpeckers and more in the spring and into the summer. —S.M.B.

FACING PAGE FROM LEFT: LEON WERDINGER; GREG VAUGHN; THIS PAGE: GEORGE OSTERLAG / ALL ALASKA STOCK PHOTO



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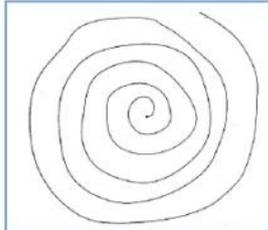
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## » EXPLORE EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

The Islet Campground area is full of families riding bikes and playing in the cold water at the edge of the sandy beach, but once we get out on the lake, the campground noise quickly fades away, and the splash of our paddles becomes the most prominent sound.

For several hours, three friends and I cruise around in a pair of canoes, enjoying the evergreen forest and views of the snow-streaked Three Sisters, a cluster of Cascade Range peaks with elevations above 10,000 feet.

Occasionally a trout jumps, briefly breaking the mirrorlike surface of the water. Sometimes we encounter other boaters, exchanging waves as they pass. Oregon Paddle Sports in Eugene rents canoes, SUPs, kayaks (including inflatables), and other boats and gear (including a tow trailer). Oregon River Rentals in the Portland region also rents various watercraft and gear.

We make it back to the campground right before dusk and load up our canoes double-time. We don't want to miss Waldo Lake's evening entertainment.

The campground is known for mosquitoes from June to about mid-August (repellent advised), but there's a beneficial aspect to the insects: They provide a tasty meal for the hundreds of swallows that live around the water. As the sun sinks, the birds swoop and dive with both grace and vigor. We watch their aerial show until the sky is dark and fills with the twinkling of starlight. ■

*Sophia McDonald Bennett is a freelance writer based in the Eugene/Springfield area. For more information on Lane County recreation, see [eugencascadescoast.org](http://eugencascadescoast.org).*

*Alaska Airlines ([alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com)) provides regular service to Eugene/Springfield.*

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Puzzle on page 66.

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- 1 Asian legume
- 5 Fire residue
- 10 Studio letters
- 13 Smidgen
- 18 Accessible
- 19 Texas fare
- 20 Trunk
- 21 Among: pref.
- 22 Snake in the glass?
- 25 Name words
- 26 Things
- 27 Compare
- 28 Dryness
- 29 Darlings
- 30 Inflexible
- 31 Borneo ape
- 32 Hockey star
- 33 Dahomey, today
- 34 Stammers
- 37 Posters
- 40 Lily pad illuminators?
- 42 Cereal bit
- 43 Ocean eagles
- 44 Sundial number
- 45 Some deer
- 46 Poker play
- 47 Fast bird
- 48 Screen components
- 50 Prophet
- 51 Orion star
- 52 Jewish festival
- 54 Scratched at
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- 59 Wither
- 60 Kept
- 62 Glimmer
- 63 Most transparent
- 66 Female deer
- 67 Comic Johnson
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- 70 \_\_\_\_ Bravo
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- 72 Famous tentmaker
- 73 Slimy
- 74 Fable
- 75 Common verb
- 76 Wish-granting reptile?
- 80 Fades
- 81 Generosity
- 84 Held
- 85 \_\_\_\_ Lancelot
- 86 Roof edges
- 87 Mock
- 88 Himalayan porters
- 92 Copyist
- 94 Italy's La \_\_\_\_
- 95 Slightly
- 96 Sparked
- 97 Chicken run?
- 99 Greek island
- 100 Convinced
- 101 Nervous
- 102 Bounce back

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- 103 Gossip center
- 104 Squid fluid
- 105 Inferno
- 106 Not busy

## DOWN

- 1 Sprinkled
- 2 Cogitate
- 3 Kibitzer
- 4 Fireplace stands
- 5 Soror
- 6 Draws back
- 7 Skedaddles
- 8 Pipe type
- 9 Edging
- 10 Sulked
- 11 Valley
- 12 Ile's place
- 13 Chicken helmet
- 14 Baptize
- 15 High-ranking fish?
- 16 Wallet items
- 17 Once, once

- 20 Scanty suit
- 23 Ados
- 24 Watch
- 28 Bind
- 30 Grease again
- 31 River mammal
- 33 Thorny plant
- 34 Wearing sandals
- 35 African mustelid
- 36 Stone marker
- 37 Soak through
- 38 "My Friend \_\_\_\_"
- 39 Discussions among wildebeests?
- 40 Firm
- 41 Unseasoned
- 44 Colorful
- 46 Pointer
- 48 Catholic leaders
- 49 Fling
- 50 Hindu mystic
- 51 Low-decked ship
- 53 Irrational quantities

- 55 Desert garment
- 56 Devoutness
- 58 Too-too
- 59 Virtuoso
- 60 Reef
- 61 Pageant prize
- 62 Brush against
- 63 Netlike hat
- 64 Doorway part
- 65 Water testers
- 67 Wrong
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# Flyer guide

Your overview of the Alaska experience.

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- Seat backs and tray tables must be in the upright, locked position during taxi, takeoff and landing.
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- Wireless mouse/keyboard
- e-readers
- Media/CD/DVD players
- Noise-canceling headphones
- Cellphones (prior to door closure only)

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10,000 miles	12,500 miles	1,401 to 2,100 miles	Portland-St. Louis
12,500 miles	12,500 miles	More than 2,101 miles	New York-Seattle

\* Plus taxes and fees from \$5.60 each way. Award availability and pricing may vary.

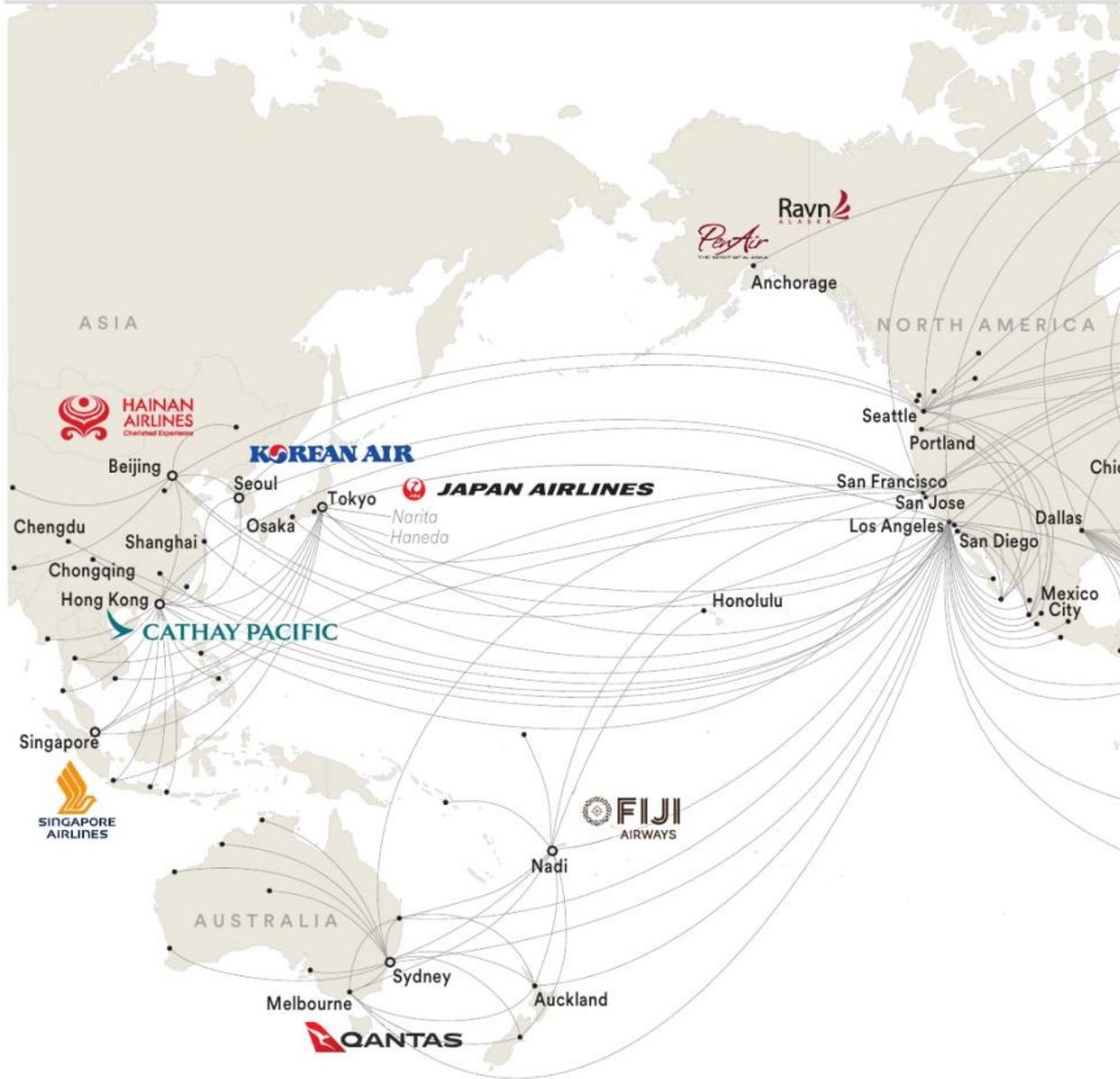
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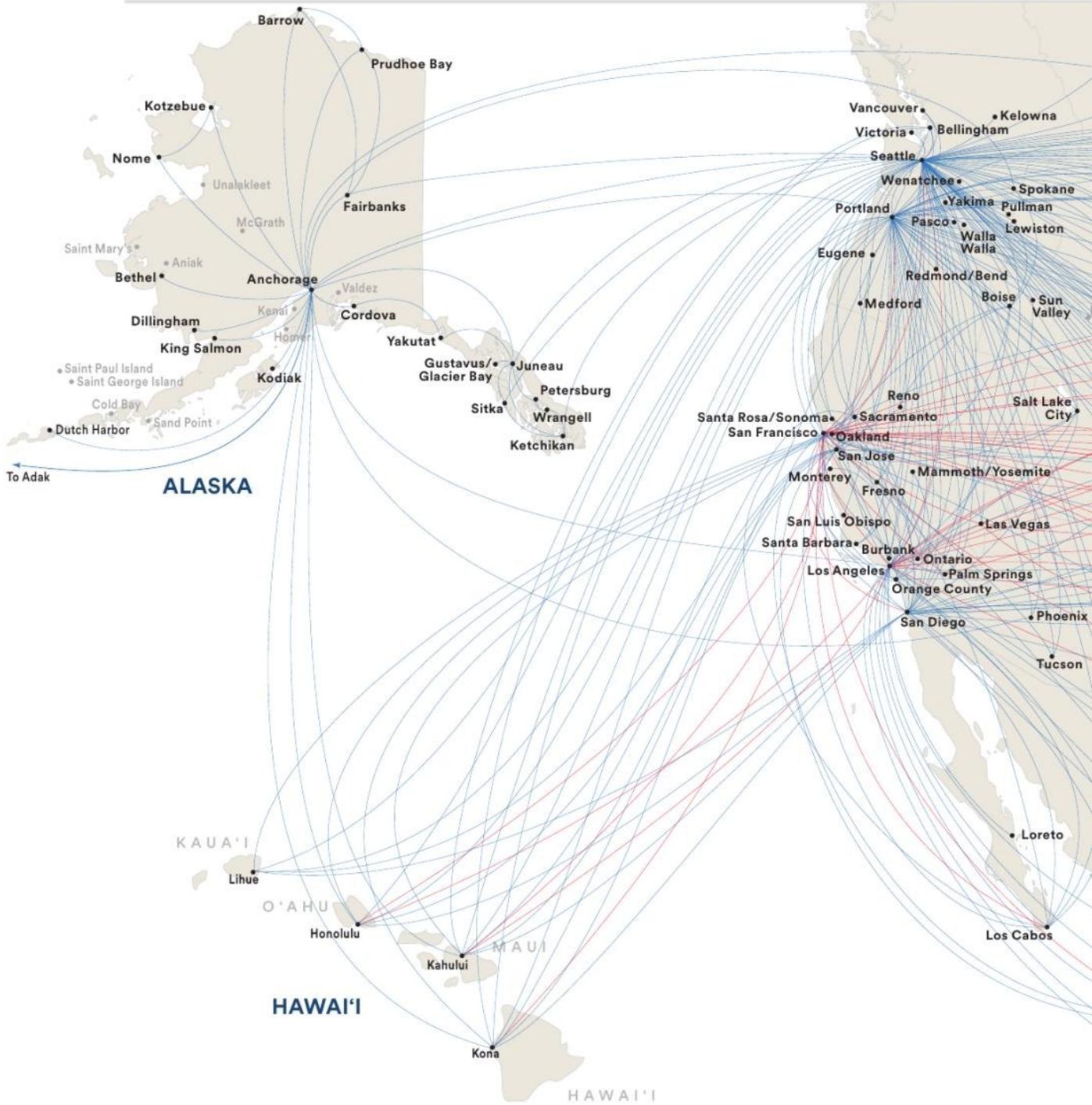
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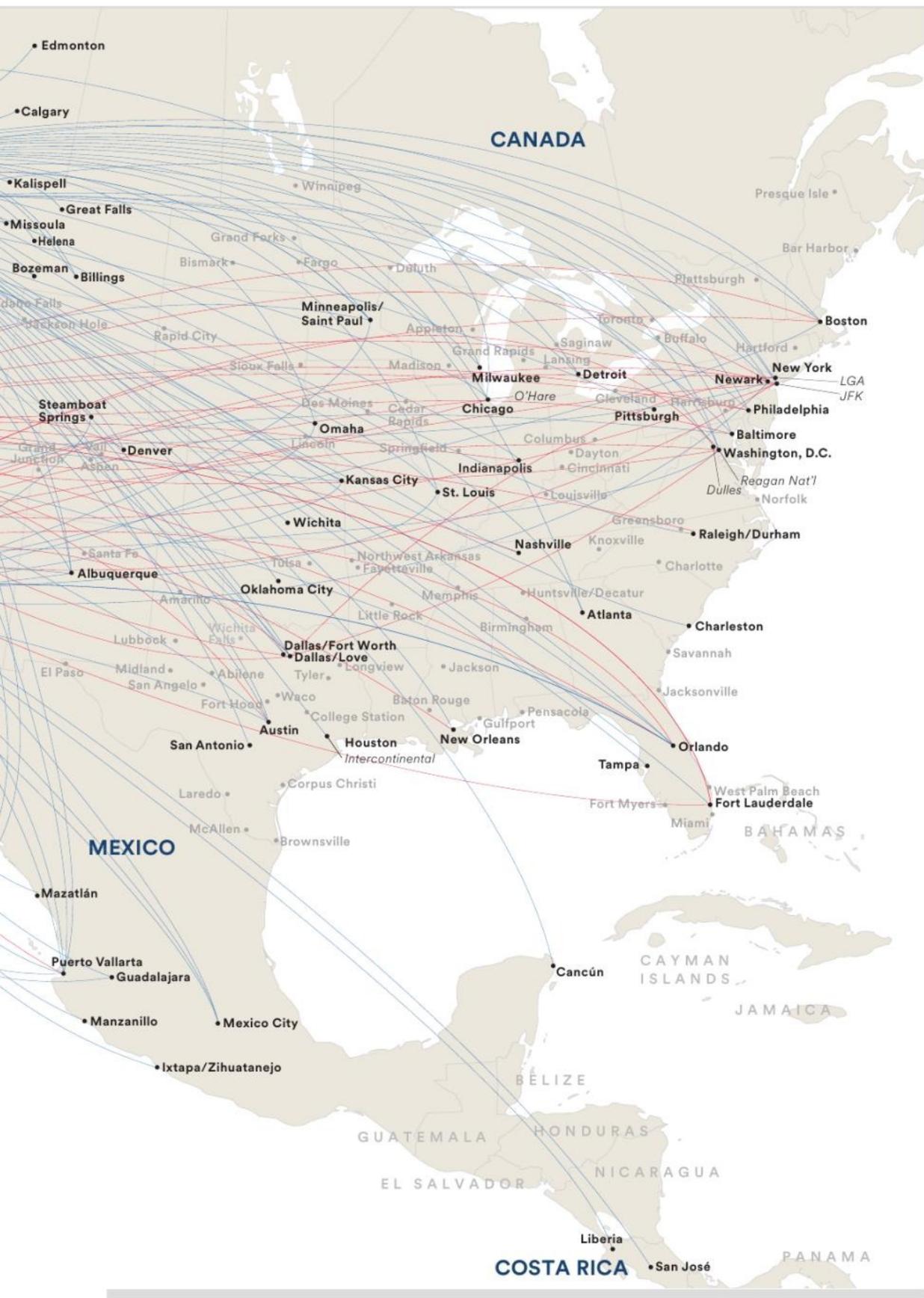


### LEGEND

- Destinations
- Partner destinations
- Alaska Airlines routes
- Virgin America routes

### UPCOMING NEW SERVICE

Route	Service Begins
Seattle, WA—Pittsburgh, PA	September 6, 2018



Some Alaska Airlines service operated by Horizon Air or SkyWest Airlines.

Some routes shown operate seasonally.

# Airport terminal maps

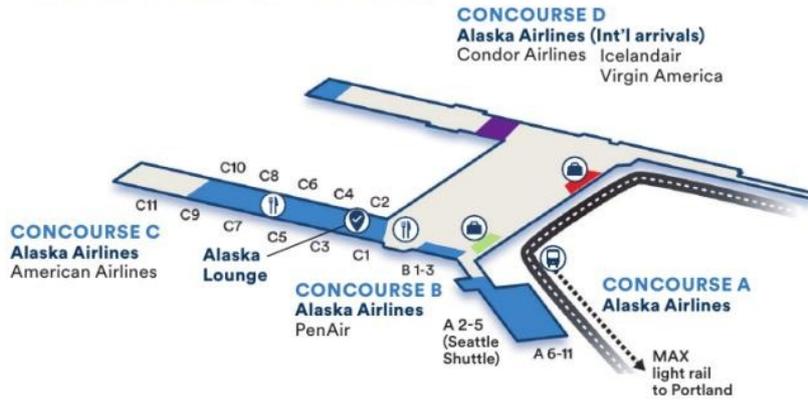
## SEA Seattle/Tacoma International Airport

**Tip:** Connecting to an Alaska Global Partner? You'll need to take the shuttle train to the South Loop Train to get to the S gates.

**Tip:** Our new Alaska Lounge opened in the C Concourse: Raise your "preflight" game. We have complimentary food, premium drinks, Wi-Fi and great views.



## PDX Portland International Airport



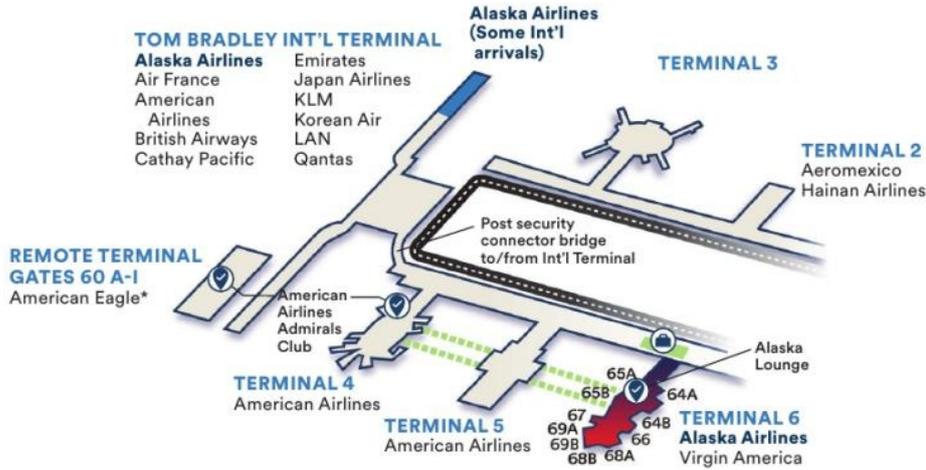
## SFO San Francisco International Airport

**Tip:** Alaska Lounge members have access to the Cathay Pacific Lounge at SFO when traveling on Alaska.

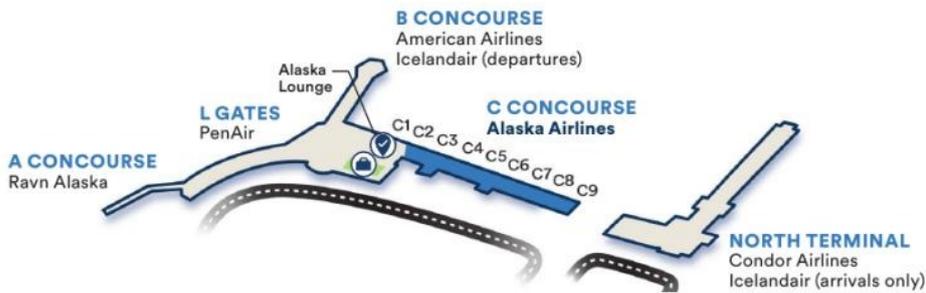


- Legend: Lounge Alaska Airlines check-in Public transportation Underground walkway  
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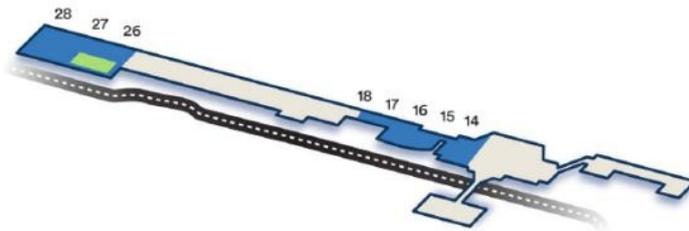
## LAX Los Angeles International Airport



## ANC Anchorage International Airport



## SJC San Jose Mineta Airport



## SAN San Diego International Airport



# SWING AND A ...

Hitting a wiffleball is harder than it looks

By Andrew Waite

» I never knew I could get so mad at a piece of plastic. But the wiffleball keeps diving and darting past me, and I swear it's playing tricks. It seems to disappear as it crosses the plate, only to thwack against the plywood for strike three. I'm out—again.

My new teammates in the Seattle Wiffleball league had assured me that we were going against one of the best pitchers, but now I'm facing someone else on the mound in the second game of our doubleheader, and I still haven't managed even a foul tip.

Of course, I'd wanted a challenge. Yearning for the competitive camaraderie over which I'd bonded with East Coast high school and college friends—taking broomball and flag football too seriously—I'd joined the wiffleball league in hopes of making more friends in my new city.

The Seattle league has all the rigor I've been seeking. We have T-shirts, after all. We also keep standings to determine which of the nine teams make the playoffs, and an app on a league tablet tracks every pitch. That means there are records kept for stats such as hits, doubles, runs batted in and batting average. That also means everyone will be able to see the zeros piling

up. Not exactly a great way to impress my new teammates.

"You'll get 'em next time," says a cheerful former college baseball player, now a 40-something sales executive with a vicious curveball and an effortless batting stroke. Heading to the dugout, another backward K recorded in the app, I'm not so sure.

For those who aren't familiar with wiffleball, it's a lot like baseball. The Wiffle Ball Inc. says it created the name because company founders called swings and misses "wiffs." (For the record, the company spells it "WIFFLE ball," but I go with the Seattle league's preferred "wiffleball" spelling.) The game is played with a perforated plastic ball on a Little League field, and a home-run fence stands about 100 feet from home. The pitcher throws to the batter, and if the ball hits the board behind the plate, it's a strike. If not, it's a ball. No umpires, no arguing.

The next time through the lineup, I make a point of watching my teammates. I not only note the sales executive's smooth swing, but also his carefree laugh as he chats with another teammate. Their upcoming at-bats are almost afterthoughts, just a small part of this beautiful spring Sunday. During my last at-bat of the day, I swing easily, and—

amazingly—I send the ball deep into the outfield. It's a routine fly ball, but still, I made contact.

The following Sunday, everything is more familiar, and I focus less on that plastic ball spinning toward me at nearly 70 miles per hour and more on the dugout conversations. Our slugger was born and raised in Alaska and still returns to fish for salmon every summer. Our left fielder is a retail finance manager who makes his wiffleball living by earning walks—his OBP after four games is nearly .750. Our leadoff hitter is a property lawyer originally from Boston, where I went to college.

Leading off the bottom of the final inning that day, I knock a hard line drive to right field, my first base hit of the season.

"That was awesome!" says a new father who wears Mariners socks that go to his knees.

After that, the hits start to come more regularly. Partly, it's because my teammates teach me how to better approach each at-bat. For instance, I learn that because pitchers want to work ahead, it's best to swing at the first pitch. But it also helps that I'm just having more fun.

Then, somewhere in the dog days of the wiffleball season, it happens.



The game has become a laughter, my team up several runs in the late innings, and it's my turn to hit. The pitcher delivers a fastball streaming right down the pipe. First pitch, I'm swinging, and I connect about as well as I can. I sprint out of the box, ready to leg out a double.

But when I look up, the ball is still floating in a helpful breeze. The ball crosses the fence, and I'm in disbelief. I've never hit a home run before. Not in Little League or pickup softball. Not even in kickball. I slow my pace into a celebratory trot. The pitcher and his teammates are leaving the field, because my solo shot has put us up by enough runs to invoke the mercy rule. So, technically, my first home run is also a walk-off.

At home plate, my whole team greets me with high-fives, back slaps and attaboys. I reach the end of the line and stare toward right field, replaying the hit and imagining how a professional broadcaster might have called it. "Back, back, back," the announcer might have swooned as that annoying plastic sphere sailed toward the fence. "That ball is outta here!" ■

*In between innings, Associate Editor Andrew Waite swings a red pen.*



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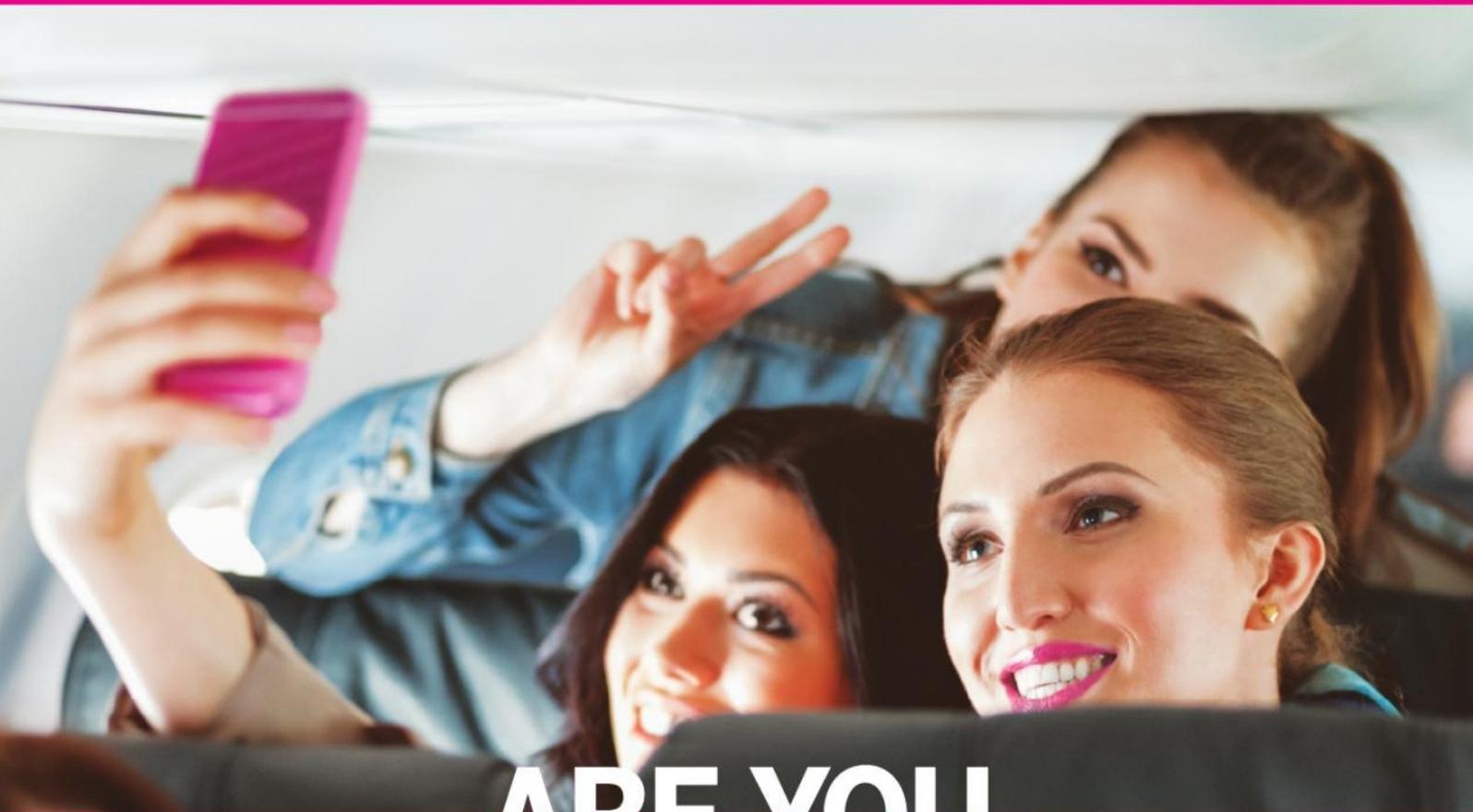


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