The more unpredictable our natural and political landscapes become, the more we feel the urge to visit places untouched by the news cycle. So, as we continue to support and keep a close watch on those areas hit hardest by a rash of hurricanes, fires, and foreign-policy blunders, we’re craving the kind of life- and perspective-changing travel that’s made all the more magical when planned by the pros—no matter how fearless and self-sufficient we sometimes feel. Because surviving in, say, the Bolivian jungle one day and meeting with the hottest artists in Lima the next requires both grit and access—to say nothing of a network of on-the-ground know-how that you quite literally can’t live without in some places. Here are the experts, fixers, and experience makers you’ll want in your foxhole.

Jordan Harvey, a South America specialist, plans treks in the Andes passing alpaca- and llama-filled pastures.
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

CENTRAL, EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Cherri Briggs
Explore, Inc.
Briggs has spent more than two decades planning trips to Africa, and her latest focus is lesser-known but awe-inspiring places like Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Zambia.

Michael Lorentz
Passage to Africa
Lorentz shines at back-of-the-beyond trips to Ethiopia and mobile safaris in Botswana, where you’ll spot meerkat, hyena, and other wildlife.

Henrietta Loyd
Cazenove + Loyd
She’ll arrange art tours to Ethiopia and mobile safaris in the Ourika Valley, get the best rooms at in-demand riads in Marrakech, and do tasting tours through Fès.

Mark Nolting
The Africa Adventure Company
For off-the-map safaris led by researchers in places like the rarely visited Mabuasehube Game Reserve, Nolting is our guy.

Nina Wennersten and Daniel Saperstein
Hippa Creek Safaris
This duo pulls off spectacular trips in Kenya (to the Segera Retreat, for example), South Africa (where they’ll arrange private wine tastings), and Tanzania (where they recommend Roving Bushtops).

EASTERN AFRICA

Linda Friedman
Custom Safaris
She’s planned lots of multigenerational family safaris, and she’s also expert at gorilla tracking in Rwanda.

Wil Smith and Karen Zulauf
Deeper Africa
They take walking safaris seriously, pairing you up with leading researchers, game wardens, antipoaching teams, and guides for itineraries in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and beyond.

EGYPT

Rami Girgis
Abercrombie & Kent
Girgis can get you private access to the entire Giza Plateau, including the three major pyramids and the Sphinx.

ETHIOPIA

Will Jones
Journeys by Design
A native of Africa, Jones has been working in safaris since 1994, managing camps, guiding trips, and planning way-out-there expeditions into tribal villages and stretches of untouched wilderness.

IRAN AND TUNISIA

Jerry Sorkin
Iconic Journeys
He’s got decades of experience in North Africa and the Middle East, and has fixers who can speak to everything from ancient ruins to contemporary politics.

ISRAEL

Susan Weissberg
Wyllys Professional Travel
She knows the contemporary art scene in Jaffa and the right guides for a deep dive into Jewish history.

Joe Yudin
Touring Israel
Yudin can connect you with Israel Defense Forces officers, archaeologists, chefs, and other insiders.

MOROCCO

Michael Diamond
Cobblestone Private Travel
His travelers meet with women’s rights NGOs in the Ourika Valley, get the best rooms at in-demand riads in Marrakech, and do tasting tours through Fès.

Mike Korn
Heritage Tours
If you want to try dune boarding in the Sahara or see the blue-walled city of Chefchaouen, go with Korn. He’s also got great guides in Fès and Marrakech.

OMAN

Sean Nelson
Oman Expeditions
He knows the best climbing and canyon-erowing routes; the most exhilarating dune-bashing and quad-biking spots; and the perfect stretches of coast for surfing, diving, and sailing.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Dan Achber
Trufflepig
Achber knows Botswana particularly well—he’s organized multiday paddles on the Selinda Spillway and game counts with zebra researchers working in the Makgadikgadi Pans.

Deborah Galmeyer
Roar Africa
With her far-reaching network that includes some of the region’s savviest guides, she can get you into private homes, gardens, and art collections you can’t otherwise see.

Julian Harrison
Premier Tours
He’s arranged trips with wildlife filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, as well as with lion and rhino researchers.

Sean Nelson, an Oman specialist, knows his way around the Hajar Mountains.

Ryan Hilton
AuthentEscapes
He’s planned photography workshops in the bush, connected travelers with antipoaching teams, and coordinated a 10-day, 62-mile walking safari through raw wilderness.

Teresa Sullivan
Mango African Safaris
Sullivan knows which routes, camps, and game reserves are best suited to families, and she’s coordinated multiday walks in the Kenyan bush.

Phoebe Weinberg
Greatways Travel
Weinberg can get you the best rooms (like No. 6 at Singita Lebombo Lodge or No. 1 at Vumbura Plains), plus over-the-top extras like helicopter flights above the Okavango Delta.

ASIA

BHUTAN

Brent Olson
GeoEx
Olson knows where to stay (Amankora, Zwila Ling Heritage) and how to duck crowds, and can arrange meditation retreats with Buddhist monks.

BHUTAN, INDIA, AND NEPAL

Antonia "Toni" Neubauer
Myths and Mountains
Her trips go way off the beaten track into villages for homestays that give you an unvarnished look at real life in the countryside.

CAMBODIA

Andy Booth
AboutAsia
Booth is particularly handy around Tonlé Sap Lake, where his...
guests can watch wildlife and navigate floating villages aboard a private wooden boat. He’s also figured out the best times to visit ancient complexes like Angkor Thom to avoid jostling with crowds.

CENTRAL ASIA

Zulya Rajabova
Silk Road Treasure Tours
Rajabova knows the top guides at the incredible Guru-e-Amir complex in Samarkand (a sort of Silk Road Taj Mahal) and the best hotels across the region.

CHINA

Gerald Hatherly
Abercrombie & Kent
Thanks to decades spent on the ground here (and his perfect Mandarin), Hatherly can pull off seemingly impossible access to the Forbidden City and Xi’an’s Terracotta Army site.

Mei Zhang
WoodChina
She’s a Chinese-food expert, plotting quests for prosciutto-like ham in Yunnan and fiery mapo tofu in Chengdu. She’s also built a network of experts who add context to trips throughout the country.

THE HIMALAYAS

Sanjay Saxena
Nomadic Expeditions
He’ll handle all that byzantine paperwork to secure trekking permits, arrange flight-seeing over the Himalayas, and set up one-on-ones with scholars, philanthropists, climbers, and craftspeople.

INDIA

Lucy Davison
Banyan Tours & Travels
Davison works across the country, planning treks in mountainous Ladakh, palace tours in Jaipur, and visits to festivals in Tamil Nadu.

Bertie and Victoria Dyer
India Beat
The Jaipur-based couple has organized elephant-tracking trips, visits to polo matches, and gallery tours led by curators at spots like Delhi’s National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum.

MYANMAR

Tyler Dillon
Truffaut
He’s constructed pop-up hotels along remote hiking routes and planned street-food tours. Dillon can also set up meet-ings with activists and officials for timely briefings on the country’s political landscape.

Jonny Bealby
Wild Frontiers
Bealby is a logistics mastermind who has planned expeditions through the Hindu Kush and Kashmir.

INDONESIA

Diane Embree
Bali Barong Tours
Think Bali is overtouristed? She’ll guide you to spots that don’t even appear on maps and set you up at luxury hotels almost nobody’s heard about.

JAPAN

Nancy Craft
Esprit Travel & Tours
She helps open doors to artists, chefs, craftspeople, musicians, Shinto priests, and Buddhist abbots.

THE MALDIVES

Lindsey Wallace
Linara Travel
He knows which resorts have the best service and which offer the quickest access to snorkeling in the United Nations–protected Hanifaru Bay. He also knows Mauritius and the Seychelles.

MONGOLIA

Jalsa Uruushurov
Nomadic Expeditions
He’ll get you riding horses, watching traditional wrestling and archery, shooting incredible photos in the Gobi Desert, and touring the highlights of Mongolia’s rapidly modernizing capital.

ARGENTINA

Maita Barrenechea
Mai 10
She was among the first to offer fly-fishing trips to Patagonia and to open estancias to guests for horseback riding. She’s still our go-to for both.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

“THIS SEASON WE’RE DOING THE FIRST-EVER YACHT-BASED HELI-SKIING TO ANTARCTICA’S INNER PEAKS. WE ACTUALLY CHARTERED TWO VESSELS, SO TWO HELICOPTERS CAN TRAVEL WITH THE MOTHER SHIP.”

Tim Soper, expedition ships specialist

AUSTRALIA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Australia

Drew Kluska
The Tailor
Kluska’s roster of winemakers, fashion insiders, and Olympic medalists adds next-level insights to trips.

Pedro O’Connor
Epic Private Journeys
He’s planned private-jet adventures that hopscotch the country and led scuba divers to the Great Barrier Reef.

Stuart Rigg
Southern Crossings
Go behind the scenes at some of Australia’s most famous vineyards, charter yachts to the Great Barrier Reef, and explore the wild, raw Northern Territory with Rigg’s help.

FIJI AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Lynette Wilson
Destination World
She’s the ultimate go-to in the region for scuba diving, water-view villas, and off-the-grid hiking.

NEW ZEALAND

Donna Thomas
New Zealand Travel
She plans hikes with the best guide in the Papamoa Hills, evenings with Maori elders, and wine tastings at the country’s top vineyards.

Trevor Thomas
Southern Crossings
Thomas scours his home country for new lodges, camps, and villas (like the suites at Mahu Whenua), and adventures like boating through fjords.

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

Kleon Howe
The Art of Travel
Howe knows every inch of the islands: which resorts are worth booking (Vahine Island and the Hotel Kia Ora), which windsurfing spots have the best breeze (he likes the Aitutaki lagoon),

TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

CONDE NAST TRAVELER / 12.17
ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND COLOMBIA

Harry Hastings

Plan South America
Hastings has intel on top-notch estancias and can connect you with all sorts of interesting locals, from emerald miners to rock-star chefs.

ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND PERU

Jordan Harvey

Knowmad Adventures
He's scoured the whole of Chile, scambled all over Machu Picchu, and searched the cities and pampas of Argentina to find the top hikes and best hotels.

BOLIVIA AND PERU

Marisol Mosquera

Aracari
She taps insiders like museum curators, chefs (like Pedro Miguel Schiaffino of Lima’s Malabar), and even jungle-survival experts for her trips.

BRAZIL

Martin Frankenberg

Matuté
Frankenberg is dialed in with incredible villas, Amazon River charter yachts, and expeditions to the dunes of Lençóis Maranhenses National Park.

Paul Irvine

Dehouche
He's planned exclusive workshops with a local fashion designer, cooking classes with chef Felipe Bronze of Oro, art tours, jaguar tracking, and samba dancing lessons.

Jill Siegel

South American Escapes
If you want the best seats at the Carnival parade, a trip up the Amazon in search of pink dolphins, or a yacht charter off the coast of Paraty, Siegel can hook you up.

CHILE

Brian Pearson

Upscape
He knows the top boutique hotels (like Casa Bouchon), the Sno-Cat guides who’ll have you skiing chutes, and the cycling routes for riders of all fitness levels.

COSTA RICA

Irene Edwards

GreenSpot Travel
She can pull off helicopter flights over volcanoes or a day at a sloth sanctuary.

COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

Pierre Gedeon

Nicaragua Adventures
He’s the clutch when it comes to multicountry trips that combine running rapids with relaxing at retreats like Nekupe.

ECUADOR AND PERU

Tom Damon

Southwind Adventures
His focus is active travel with guides like the grandson of one of the Peruvians who took Hiram Bingham to Machu Picchu.

EUROPE

Gwen Kozlowski

Exeter International
Kozlowski can score tours of the Spanish Riding School, open doors to crafts workshops in the Czech Republic, or plan multiday tasting trips to family-owned wineries in the Wachau Valley.

Ellison Poe

Poe Travel
She’ll arrange for the best tables at under-the-radar restaurants in Vienna and private tours of legendary Habsburg palaces.

Chris Gordon

Travel2Greece by Travelive
Her on-the-ground ops team can handle complex multi-island itineraries with private boat and helicopter transfers to spots like Ios and Kefalonia.

Ronnie Liadis

Liadis Travel
She’s secured access to otherwise off-limits ancient sites and wineries that aren’t open to the public, and chartered boats around Santorini.

Kathleen Sheridan

 McCabe World Travel
Sheridan knows the top castle hotels and countryside manors (like Sheen Falls and Ballyfin), and has chided-in guides who lead seaside hikes, fishing trips, and horseback rides.

ITALY

Brian Dore and Maria Gabriella Landers

CIU Travel
They’ve arranged a prime viewing spot for the iconic Palio race, the best rooms at small-but-lovely Sicilian inns, and tours of privately owned Palladian villas that aren’t normally open to visitors.

Andrea Grisdale

IC Bellagio
She has behind-the-scenes access at fashion houses (like Gucci and Zegna) and iconic sites like the Vatican and the Uffizi, where she’ll make sure you never wait in line.

Damadie King

Connoisseur’s Travel
She'll have you baking alongside locals in Sicily, touring private art collections, visiting ceramicists and furniture makers, or sailing the Venetian Lagoon.

Gary Portesui

Authentic Italy
He’s our go-to for tooling through Parma and Modena to sample Parmigiano-Reggiano, balsamic vinegar, and prosciutto; flying from Rome to Capri for lunch (back in time for dinner); or having a private picnic on the Sicilian island of Mozia.

Rudston Steward

Trufflehike
He's sussed out amazing food (and places to stay) in lesser-known corners of Italy, like the Aeolian Islands, Tuscany’s Monte Amiata, and towns like Matera in Basilicata.

Deborah Calmeyer, Southern Africa specialist

“I HAD A CLIENT, A PRO CRICKET UMPIRE, WHO WANTED TO CALL A GAME AT THE FAMOUS NEWLANDS STADIUM IN CAPE TOWN. I ARRANGED IT—AND DINNER WITH SOUTH AFRICA’S NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM.”
THE NETHERLANDS
Harmina Mulder
The Travel Society
She’s got major pull at all the top hotels, and she’ll score tables at the country’s best restaurants, like De Kas and Librije’s Zuisje.

PORTUGAL
Gonçalo Correia
Tours for You
He’s arranged dinner with a former president of Portugal, a private concert with one of the country’s top fado singers, and cocktails at the studio of artist João Figueiredo.

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN
Virginia Irurita
Made for Spain & Portugal
Irurita has thrilled clients with coastal hikes along the cliffs near Sagres, access to members-only clubs in Porto, and private flamenco shows and wine tastings.

RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE
Greg Tepper
Exeter International
Whether you want to tour the Kremlin or get behind the curtain at St. Petersburg’s Vaganova Ballet Academy, where both Balanchine and Baryshnikov danced, he’s got you covered.

SCANDINAVIA
Jan Sortland
Norwegian Adventures
Sortland plans climbing expeditions, glacier treks, sea kayaking, and even dog sledding adventures.

SCOTLAND
Camilla Davidson
NoteWorthy
She’s plugged in to Scotland’s sizzling food scene and has contacts at the best distilleries, world-famous golf links, and even private hunting estates.

David Tolin
Dream Escape
Tolin’s an ace at getting inside private castles and estates, and he’s well connected with all the top guides in the Highlands.

SPAIN
Sebastian Lapostol
Trufflepig
He’s got friends in the right places: mycologists who lead truffle hunts near Barcelona, flamenco musicians in Jerez de la Frontera, and field biologists who know all the great birding spots.

Ally Lewing
Heritage Tours
With Lewing, you’ll see some of Spain’s most popular sights, including the Mezquita in Córdoba and Seville’s Alcázar, after hours on private tours.

SWITZERLAND
Jack Shaw
Epic Europe
Shaw knows the top ski instructors and heli guides, plans high-altitude hikes with stays at mountain refugios, and has contacts at luxe watchmakers (in case you need a new piece).

TURKEY
Karen Fedorko Sefer
Sea Song Tours
Fedorko Sefer will get you into historical sites before they open to the public, book the very best hotel rooms, and get you aboard some of Turkey’s top charter yachts.

EARLY STARKEY
Protravel International
Starkey can pull off a private visit to the Hagia Sophia, organize dinner at the Ephesus archaeological site, and introduce you to fikers like Riza Yenice, the kind of person you’re happy spending a week with.

Linda Friedman, an Eastern Africa specialist, can take you gorilla trekking in Rwanda.

For more on the incredible experiences these specialists can deliver, and for their contact info, visit cntraveler.com/travel-specialists.

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broadcast, and Victor Marin, an architectural historian.

**MEXICO**

Zachary Rabinor
*Journey Mexico*
He’ll coordinate tours with celebrated chefs, devise a multi-day hike through the Copper Canyon area (with luxe camps along the way), or get you surfing on beaches you’ll have all to yourself.

**Stephanie Schneiderman**
*Tia Stephanie Tours*
Many of her itineraries focus on traditional handmade crafts, textile design, and folk art. She can also hook you up with cooking classes and visits to mezcal distilleries.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Sheri Doyle
*Pacific Northwest Journeys*
The go-to for wildlife expeditions, boat charters, impossible-to-get hotel and restaurant reservations, and road-trip advice in the U.S. as well as British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies.

**TRAVEL SPECIALISTS**

6

**CRUISES**

**EUROPEAN BARGE CRUISES**

**Jill Jergel**
*Frontiers International Travel*
She can get you cabins on intimate vessels, as well as the top ships that bigger river cruise lines operate throughout Europe.

Ellen Sack
*The Barge Lady*
Sack will pair you with the right charter, and her bespoke excursions are second to none: truffle hunts in Burgundy, visits to private gardens, wine tastings, and biking tours.

**EXPEDITION SHIPS**

Sharon Keating
*Polar Cruises*
She’s booked travelers on ships sailing Russia’s far east; around Svalbard, Norway; and to the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica.

Thomas Lennartz
*Quark Expeditions*
He’s got access to nuclear-powered icebreakers in Russia (for real) and luxury yachts that do private charters to Antarctica, and he’s pulled off hot-air ballooning over icebergs, spectacular wildlife watching, and trips led by world-class photographers.

Ashton Palmer
*ExpeditionTrips*
A former expedition leader, Palmer specializes in small-ship cruises aboard some of the world’s top vessels to the polar regions, as well as the Galápagos.

Todd Smith
*AdventureSmith Explorations*
His trips to Alaska and the Galápagos are aboard small ships and charter yachts like the National Geographic Orion or the Sea Wolf, a historic wooden minesweeper.

Tim Soper
*EYOS Expeditions*
He’s taken travelers to climate research stations in Antarctica, through the Northwest Passage, and on cultural immersion trips to places like Papua New Guinea.

**LARGE SHIPS**

Linda Allen
*Cruises by Linda*
Allen has major clout with lines including Celebrity, Norwegian, Viking, and Seabourn, and she knows which state rooms have the best views (and the least noise), and she can often secure free upgrades and other extra perks.

**RIVER CRUISES**

Richard Bruce Turen
*Toured & Turen*
Turen is a master at crafting in-depth tours of ports like Prague, calling on a network of journalists, experts, and other insiders who offer greater context beyond rote historical facts. He also knows oceangoing lines, like Crystal and Regent Seven Seas.

Leslie Fambrini
*Personalized Travel Consultants*
Fambrini has major pull with luxury lines, including Crystal, Paul Gauguin, Silversea, and Windstar.

**“CHINA’S EXPANDING NETWORK OF BULLET TRAINS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT CHANGE. IT OPENS UP SO MANY AREAS, AND I THINK THE BUSINESS CLASS IS THE MOST COMFORTABLE WAY TO TRAVEL THE COUNTRY.”**

Gerald Hatherly, China specialist

**FRANCE**

Erica Berman
*Haven In*
Berman is best known for fully serviced Paris rentals that come with stocked fridges, fresh flowers, and a driver on call. Her firm has recently added homes in Versailles and Provence, too.

Gail Boisclair
*Perfectly Paris*
She has nearly 20 years of experience renting gorgeous flats in Montmartre and its surrounding arrondissements.

**FRANCE, ITALY, AND SPAIN**

Cédric Reverandes
*Paul-Maxime Koskas*
Unique Properties & Events
They’ve recently added new properties in Formentera and Pantelleria, as well as yoga retreats to homes in Mallorca and Umbria; they can also charter yachts.

**Greece**

Ileana von Hirsch
*Five Star Greece*
She knows Mykonos and Santorini, of course, but von Hirsch is more keen on less-visited Corfu, where some homes have spectacular pools, and the Ionian Islands.

**CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY**

Liza Graves
*BeautifulPlaces*
She’s based in Sonoma, which means she’s got-on-the-ground intel about what’s open and what’s not after the fires this fall. She also has first dibs on the region’s top homes, not to mention impossible reservations and private wine tastings.

**THE CARIBBEAN**

Tim Roney
*LaCure*
Roney leans on 35 years of experience when he recommends homes (and entire private islands) across the region, in places like Barbados, Jamaica, and the many countries that are back up and running after this year’s hurricanes.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Adam Coats
*Red Savannah*
Coats personally inspects every one of his villas, including that 300-acre estate on Menorca with its own private cove and those stately Cotswolds manors where the only neighbors are sheep.

**FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**Perfectly Paris**
*Nick Westwood*
He’s the one to call for homes along the Côte d’Azur, as well as in France’s unsung corners, like Cap Ferret, the coastal retreat near Bordeaux.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

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IN TUSCANY’S VAL D’ORCIA, WHERE EVERYONE VISITS THE SAME PECORINO MAKER IN PIENZA, I INSTEAD SEND CLIENTS TO THE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN CASTELLO DI POTENTINO TO SEE MY CHEESE-MAKING FRIENDS FRANCESCA AND LORENZO.”

Rudston Steward, Italy specialist

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Ryne Holliday**

Hawaii Hideaways

Holliday has listings across the major islands, including plenty of beachfront homes with killer views and rural retreats, like one situated between two waterfalls.

**ITALY**

**Countess Simonetta Brandolini d’Adda**

The Best in Italy

Her portfolio includes private estates and opulent, historic villas; she’ll also coordinate wine tastings, lavish lunches, and curated-led gallery tours.

**Chiara Guidi**

Red Savannah

Originally from Florence, Guidi is particularly strong in Central Italy, with homes in the Maremma as well as offerings in Umbrian villages like Bevagna and Montefalco.

**Patrice Salezze**

Papavero Villa Rentals

She’s got properties across the country and a network of guides, some of whom she’s worked with for 15 years, who can arrange wine tastings, bike trips, or in-depth museum tours.

**Mara Solomon**

Homebase Abroad

Solomon has access to some of Italy’s most luxurious estates, many of which are ideal for big groups or destination celebrations, like birthdays or weddings, and a concierge team to arrange Ferrari test drives or opera tickets.

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Jacqui Spice**

Touch of Spice

Her portfolio includes sprawling countryside retreats, private islands, and other escapes, plus all sorts of staff—private drivers, yoga teachers, chefs—to help round out your trip.

**HAWAII**

**Ryne Holliday**

Hawaii Hideaways

Holliday is listing across the major islands, including plenty of beachfront homes with killer views and rural retreats, like one situated between two waterfalls.

**SPECIAL INTEREST**

**AIRLINE ASSISTANCE**

**Brett Snyder**

Cranky Concierge

Snyder’s able to suggest the ideal airline for any given route, and his team monitors flights in real time to provide updates on gate changes and delays. They’ll also rebook you in a flash.

**DESTINATION CELEBRATIONS**

**Jack S. Ezon**

Ovation Vacations

Ezon has tight relationships with hotels—meaning he can often snag upgraded rooms or other perks—and he’s planned parties on Necker Island and even a 350-person wedding at Versailles.

**DESTINATION WEDDINGS**

**Harlan deBell**

and **Kara Bebell**

The Travel Siblings

They’ve organized weddings and receptions at incredible venues, like a private palace in Jaipur, a castle in Northern Ireland, and some of Italy’s most stunning luxury hotels.

**DISNEY**

**Michelle Allen**

Travel Magic

You could try to figure out the best ways to beat the crowds, skip lines, book the right restaurants, and tackle all the ancillary Disney logistics. Or you could just tap Allen, who’s got it all on lock.

**FAMILY TRAVEL**

**Kay Merrill**

Are We There Yet? Family Adventures

Merrill is a pro at keeping families with older children happy, running guided hikes on the Camino de Santiago, surfing expeditions to Peru, or polo-playing adventures in Argentina.

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**LESLEY OVERTON**

Passported

Overton specializes in immersive cultural experiences, like cooking classes, dance or music lessons, weaving or pottery classes, in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

**FLY-FISHING**

**Mollie Fitzgerald**

Frontiers

International Travel

She’s got exclusive access to some of the world’s finest fishing, in places like Bhutan and Russia, and knows all the best spots to cast in New Zealand, Scotland, the U.S., and pretty much everywhere else.

**LGBTQ TRIPS**

**David Rubin**

DavidTravel

A rock star when it comes to destination celebrations or milestone birthdays, he’s got a global network that’s pulled off dream trips for guests in places like Egypt, Ethiopia, India, and the United Arab Emirates.

**MILES AND POINTS**

**Gary Leff**

Book Your Award

One of the original points hackers, Leff has a handle on the ins and outs of every program and how to maximize your miles to get into one of Etihad’s in-air “suites,” or how to upgrade to business-class seats for next to nothing.

**OVER THE TOP TRIPS**

**Kate Doty**

GeoEx

Doty knows which airstrips can accommodate your private jet, how to score access to top diplomats, and the best ways to see back-of-beyond spots like Chad, the D.R.C., or Indonesia’s out islands.

**KATHY OBBISH**

Custom Safaris & Explorations

She plans incredible wildlife-focused trips in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, as well as adventure-minded itineraries in places like Australia’s Outback and the Canadian Rockies.

**SCUBA DIVING**

**Meg Austin**

The Travel Society

She’s been planning adventure trips for more than 30 years, and she knows every cave, reef, and wreck—plus quality hotels in every port for when you’re done diving for the day.

**WINE**

**Larry Martin**

Food & Wine Trails

Martin has spent his whole life in Sonoma County, which is still recovering from devastating fires, and he’s got close contacts at every big-time wine producer in California. He can also take you deep into the wine regions in Croatia, Germany, or Slovenia.