



theconnectedtraveler

we connect you to the world.



• HELLO •

March

MARCH NEWSLETTER

March is the perfect time to shake off the winter blues and start looking ahead to your next unforgettable journey. As the seasons begin to shift, destinations around the world come alive with blooming landscapes, vibrant festivals, and ideal travel weather. Whether you're dreaming of a springtime escape to Europe, planning a relaxing cruise, or locking in those summer and holiday getaways, now is the time to get ahead of the crowds and secure the best experiences. At The Connected Traveler, we're here to help you turn that wanderlust into a well-planned adventure —because the best trips aren't last-minute, they're thoughtfully designed. Start saying “yes” to where you want to go next.

WINDSTAR CRUISES VIRTUAL CRUISE NIGHT

Tuesday, March 31, 2026
7PM EST



WWW.TINYURL.COM/WINDSTARVIRTUAL



Hot Travel Trends & Issues You Can't Ignore in 2026

Travel in 2026 is full of opportunity—but it's also evolving faster than ever. From shifting costs to emerging destinations and changing safety considerations, here's what savvy travelers need to know this month.

Rising Travel Costs & Dynamic Pricing

Airfares, hotel rates, and cruise fares are moving daily. Many airlines and travel companies now use dynamic pricing, meaning the cost of a ticket or cabin can fluctuate multiple times in a single day. Travelers who plan early, monitor trends, or work with a travel professional who tracks these changes can save significantly—and secure better itineraries before demand drives prices up.

Cruise Updates You Need to Know

Cruising continues to evolve with new ships, innovative onboard experiences, and high-demand itineraries—particularly in Alaska, the Mediterranean, and European rivers. Many cruise lines are updating group policies, loyalty perks, and booking structures, making now a prime time to lock in your sailing. Advisors with insider knowledge can navigate these updates to find the best cabins, added amenities, and savings.

Entry Requirements & Travel Safety

Even as many borders have relaxed restrictions, entry requirements, health protocols, and visa rules are still changing frequently. Understanding local regulations before departure avoids delays and surprises. Political, civil, and environmental factors—like strikes, unrest, or natural events—can also impact travel. Being informed, prepared, and connected with on-the-ground resources ensures peace of mind while traveling.

Trending Destinations & Experiences

Travelers are seeking more than just sightseeing. Hot destinations include culturally immersive trips, outdoor-focused adventures, and smaller, boutique experiences that allow deeper connections with the places visited. Small-ship and river cruises are increasingly popular, as they provide intimate settings, personalized service, and access to ports large ships can't reach.

Travel Tech Is Changing the Game

From real-time itinerary updates to fare tracking, travel apps and tools make it easier to plan, monitor, and adjust trips on the fly. Tech solutions can alert you to sudden changes, help manage bookings across multiple providers, and even provide concierge-level support in case of delays or emergencies.

Bottom Line

2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year for travel—but staying ahead requires awareness and preparation. By understanding the latest trends, planning strategically, and leveraging the right tools, you can turn uncertainty into confidence—and make every trip smoother, safer, and more rewarding.

Azamara Cruises
Virtual Cruise Night
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
7PM EST

www.tinyurl.com/azamaravirtualcruise



Selected Sailings

Southern Caribbean Cruise
Nov 21-28, 2026
San Juan to Bridgetown
Pricing starts at \$1149 pp

New Zealand & Australia
Jan 20-Feb 5, 2027
Auckland to Sydney
Pricing starts at \$5019 pp

Japan Intensive
April 22-May 3, 2027
Tokyo to Kobe
Pricing starts at \$4599pp

Baltic Intensive
July 29-Aug 13, 2027
Copenhagen to Portsmouth
Pricing starts at \$6699pp

Halloween Cruise
Oct 28-Nov 6, 2027
New York City to San Juan
Pricing starts at \$1139pp

New Zealand Intensive Cruise
Jan 21-Feb 2, 2028
Auckland to Auckland
Pricing starts at \$3529pp

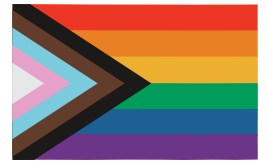
Best of the Med & Cairo
Feb 15-26, 2028
Athens to Athens
Pricing starts at \$3669pp

Americana Coast Cruise
March 22-April 2, 2028
Miami to Miami
Pricing starts at \$1199pp

Visit the website for more!



World Pride 2026!



Winner best cruise river cruise line! USA Top 10 list winner!

The **Connected Traveler** is excited to host a special **ship takeover** you won't want to miss. This roundtrip Düsseldorf river cruise sails through Northern Europe with stops in Rotterdam, Antwerp, Nijmegen, and includes two overnight stays in Amsterdam, giving you extra time to fully experience one of Europe's most vibrant cities & World Pride.

Viva Cruises' **all-inclusive** experience makes travel easy and seamless, with gourmet dining, wine, beer, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the day, Wi-Fi, gratuities, **and shore excursions** all included. Combined with The Connected Traveler's hosted sailing, this is a fun, immersive river cruise designed for connection and discovery—and it's absolutely one you'll want to join with the **SmokyMtnBears**.

VIVA CRUISES
WORLD PRIDE CRUISE
JULY 29 - AUGUST 5, 2026
HOSTED BY THE
SmokyMtnBears

3 DAYS IN AMSTERDAM!

- ✓ LGBTQ & ALLIES WELCOME!
- ✓ ALL-INCLUSIVE!
- ✓ ALCOHOL, SHORE EXCURSIONS, GRATUITIES & MORE!

\$2895 PER PERSON

TCT recognized internationally for its partnership with Viva on World Pride Cruise
On March 16, 2026, more than 511 news sources discussed how TCT is making an impact in 2026 for World Pride.



Featured Sailings



Sept 5-14, 2026

Guayaquil to San Juan

Set sail on an unforgettable journey from Guayaquil to San Juan, September 5–14, 2026, where every day brings new destinations, vibrant culture, and elevated experiences at sea. Hosted as a **Virtuoso Voyages** sailing by Sean and Scott—the SmokyMtnBears—this exclusive cruise combines luxury perks, curated events, and a welcoming community for a truly one-of-a-kind adventure.

July 12-19, 2027

Vancouver to Seward

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Alaska on a luxurious Crystal Cruises voyage from Vancouver to Seward, July 12–19, 2027. From majestic glaciers and wildlife sightings to world-class service and enrichment onboard, this unforgettable journey blends natural wonder with refined elegance at sea.



August 2-9, 2028

Vancouver to San Diego

Sail in style on Crystal Cruises from Vancouver to San Diego, August 2–9, 2027, where coastal beauty meets ultra-luxury at sea. Enjoy scenic Pacific vistas, exceptional dining, and personalized service as you journey along the stunning West Coast in refined comfort.



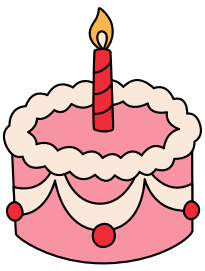
February 29-March 10, 2028

Cartagena to Fort Lauderdale

Escape to the warmth of the Caribbean on Crystal Cruises, sailing from Cartagena to Fort Lauderdale, February 29–March 10, 2028. This elegant journey blends vibrant culture, sun-soaked islands, and Crystal’s signature luxury service for a truly enriching and relaxing experience at sea.



Visit www.theconnectedtraveler.com for more trips



Ron's Birthday Bash Group



Sailing aboard **Royal Caribbean's Quantum of the Seas** from February 13–18, 2026, was an unforgettable celebration as we hosted a group of 45 amazing travelers for Ron's 60th birthday bash. Departing from Los Angeles and cruising to Cabo San Lucas—with a special overnight stay in port—this itinerary gave us the perfect mix of relaxation, adventure, and celebration. Quantum of the Seas truly impressed with its modern design, incredible ocean views, and nonstop activities. From enjoying the North Star's breathtaking views to taking in top-tier entertainment and relaxing poolside under the sun, there was something for everyone in our group to enjoy.

What made this sailing even more special was the way everyone came together throughout the journey. Royal Caribbean went above and beyond by reserving a dedicated dining section for our group each night, creating a space where we could gather, laugh, and celebrate Ron together. One of the highlights of the trip was an exclusive cocktail party held just for Ron, bringing everyone together for a memorable evening filled with drinks, stories, and celebration. Combined with our overnight in Cabo and all the shared experiences onboard, this was more than just a cruise—it was a milestone moment surrounded by chosen family. It's trips like these that truly showcase the magic of group travel with The Connected Traveler.

