



# theconnectedtraveler

we connect you to the world.



MAY

## MAY NEWSLETTER

### May: A Month to Dream Bigger and Plan Smarter

May is one of our favorite months in travel because it feels like the official doorway to summer. The days are longer, the weather is warmer, and travelers start thinking seriously about where they want to go next. Whether it is a last-minute summer escape, a fall cruise, a holiday getaway, or a bucket-list journey for 2027, May is the perfect time to stop dreaming and start planning.

This month is also a reminder that the best trips rarely happen by accident. Popular cruises, luxury resorts, river cruises, family vacations, and holiday sailings are already filling quickly. Travelers who plan ahead often have better choices, better pricing, and more time to design the trip around what really matters: relaxation, connection, celebration, adventure, or simply getting away from the everyday.

At The Connected Traveler, we are seeing strong interest in cruises, Europe, Alaska, Christmas markets, warm-weather escapes, and once-in-a-lifetime luxury journeys. May is a great time to look at the rest of 2026 and even begin thinking about 2027. From Thanksgiving and New Year's cruises to romantic getaways, family vacations, group travel, and river cruises, there are so many incredible ways to make the next trip unforgettable.

So, as May brings fresh energy and a sense of possibility, we invite you to think about where you want to be next. Do you want to sip wine along a European river, wake up to glaciers in Alaska, celebrate Pride in Amsterdam, relax on a Caribbean beach, or sail into the New Year somewhere fabulous? Wherever your travel dreams are taking you, The Connected Traveler is here to help bring them to life.

# What to Expect for the Remainder of 2026 in Travel

As we move through the remainder of 2026, travel continues to be strong, but travelers are becoming more intentional about where they go, how they spend, and what they want from each experience. Instead of simply booking a trip, many travelers are looking for vacations that feel personal, meaningful, and worth the investment. Whether it is a milestone celebration, a family getaway, a luxury cruise, or a much-needed escape, the focus is shifting toward quality, connection, and better-planned experiences.

**Cruising** will continue to be one of the biggest travel stories for the rest of the year. Ocean cruises, river cruises, expedition sailings, and luxury yacht-style experiences are all in high demand because they allow travelers to visit multiple destinations while enjoying the ease of unpacking once. Holiday cruises, Christmas market river cruises, Thanksgiving sailings, and New Year's Eve voyages are expected to remain especially popular, so early planning will be important for the best availability and pricing.

**Europe** will also remain a favorite, but travelers are looking beyond rushed itineraries and crowded landmark checklists. More people are choosing longer stays, pre- and post-cruise hotel nights, private tours, food and wine experiences, and destinations that offer a deeper sense of place. Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Portugal, the Danube, and the Rhine continue to be strong choices, especially for travelers who want culture, history, scenery, and unforgettable dining.

**Value** will matter more than ever, even in luxury travel. That does not always mean choosing the cheapest option. It means understanding **what is included**, what is not, and where the real benefits are. Travelers are paying closer attention to included gratuities, beverages, shore excursions, hotel perks, travel protection, airfare, and overall service. This is where working with a trusted travel advisor can make a major difference, helping travelers compare the true value of each option instead of only looking at the starting price.

The rest of 2026 will also bring strong interest in wellness travel, celebration trips, warm-weather escapes, and chosen-family vacations. Travelers are no longer waiting for “**someday**” to take the trip they have been dreaming about. They want to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, reunions, and life's big moments with experiences they will remember.

## **The Bottom Line:**

The remainder of 2026 is full of opportunity, but the best trips will belong to those who plan with intention. From cruises and luxury resorts to European adventures, holiday getaways, and custom-designed journeys, now is the time to start planning what comes next. Call The Connected Traveler at 865-973-9744 or visit [www.theconnectedtraveler.com](http://www.theconnectedtraveler.com) to begin planning your next unforgettable vacation.

# Newly Added Land Tours



MAY 1- OCT 31, 2026

**All Inclusive Couples Resort Jamaica**



JUNE 1,- OCT 31, 2026

**Panama All Inclusive Journey**



SUN, OCT 25-SUN, NOV 1, 2026

**VACAYA's 2026 Mexico Resort**

# Virtuoso Voyages



FRI, JAN 22 - TUES, FEB 2, 2027

## Nights of Samba and Tango – Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires

Rio De Janeiro • Armação Dos Búzios • Ilha Grande • Ilhabela • São Francisco do Sul • Porto Belo • Rio Grande • Montevideo • Buenos Aires



FRI, APRIL 2 - FRI, APRIL 16, 2027

## East Asia Cruise: Hong Kong, Shanghai & Beijing

Hong Kong • Taipei • Ishigaki • Naha • Shanghai • Dalian • Beijing • Seoul



THURS, JULY 29- FRI, AUG 13, 2027

## Baltic Intensive Cruise-Stockholm, Helsinki, and Gdansk

Copenhagen • Visby • Stockholm • Turku • Helsinki • Tallinn • Riga • Klaipeda • Gdansk • Ronne • Wismar • Portsmouth



SAT, FEB 5 - SAT, FEB 12, 2028

## Dubai to Dubai

Dubai • Abu Dhabi • Bahrain • Doha • Dammam • Dubai

Join the SmokyMtnBears on select Virtuoso Voyages, where exclusive rates, elevated experiences, and valuable Virtuoso benefits come together on some of the world's most amazing cruises. It's the perfect way to sail with hosts you know, enjoy added perks, and experience travel the way it was meant to be.



## Visit the Website

Be sure to visit [www.theconnectedtraveler.com](http://www.theconnectedtraveler.com) often, as we continue to add new trips, featured sailings, hosted journeys, and unique travel experiences throughout the year. From ocean cruises and river cruises to land tours, women-only trips, expedition travel, hosted tours, transatlantic crossings, and so much more, there is always something new to discover.

And if you do not see exactly what you are looking for, just let us know. The trips featured on our website are only the beginning. Our team can help find amazing rates, compare options, and design the perfect vacation around your travel style, budget, and wish list. Whether you are dreaming of something relaxing, adventurous, luxurious, or completely one-of-a-kind, The Connected Traveler is here to help bring that journey to life.

 FOLLOW US

## Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

Make sure you are following **The Connected Traveler** on **Facebook** and **Instagram** so you do not miss our latest trips, travel inspiration, exclusive offers, hosted cruises, travel tips, and behind-the-scenes adventures. If you are not already following us, now is the perfect time to hit that follow button, like our posts, and share them with friends and family who love to travel.

We are also growing on **TikTok** and **YouTube**, where we will continue sharing more travel content, videos, cruise highlights, destination features, and helpful planning ideas. Your likes, follows, comments, and shares help us reach more travelers and continue building a community of people who love exploring the world. Follow along, share the journey, and let The Connected Traveler inspire your next unforgettable vacation.

**PROMOTION**

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## June Social Media Promotion

For our June Promotion, the person who **follows, likes, and shares** the most posts on **Facebook and Instagram**, and **likes the most videos on TikTok and YouTube**, will win a prize pack full of great items from our amazing travel partners!

The promotion runs **June 1–30, 2026**, so get ready to follow, like, share, and show The Connected Traveler some love all month long. The more you engage, the better your chance to win!