

TOWN & COUNTRY

MAY 2022

CAN WE GO NOW?

The Search for Fantasy in a Mad, Mad World

— FEATURING —

*The Heiress Riding Shotgun • Rome's Rebel Principessa •
An Empress with a Dream • Your Nightmare College Admissions Officer •
Billionaires Battling Beauty • The Biggest Mouth in Washington •
The Biggest Diamonds in Dallas • The Last Smoker in Paris •
The Geniuses Making the Case for a Collective Time-Out*

A DREAM SEQUENCE STARRING IVY GETTY AND TOM BLYTH

Hail, EXPLORER!

Expedition boats used to be a rough and tumble way to get where few have gone before. No longer. Welcome to the cushy new age of discovery. BY KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA

“We do 9-to-5 adventure,” says Francesco Galli Zugaro, founder and CEO of boutique cruise line Aqua Expeditions. Indeed. On the Aqua Blu in Indonesia, I swam with giant mantas; on the Aqua Nera in the Peruvian Amazon, I ogled pods of pink dolphins and had close (really close) calls with piranhas, and then returned at day’s end to the mother ships’ coolly sophisticated suites, star-chef menus, massages, and hot tubs. Here are some of the new boats we love—and the things you’ll see.



FROM AQUA EXPEDITIONS The waved albatross lays a single egg yearly and breeds, from April through December, in the Galápagos on Española Island. See the goings-on courtesy of the new Aqua Mare. Will there be a stampede to get ashore? There will not: This superyacht of a ship has just seven suites and is serviced by two tenders. Other than time-traveling back to Darwin’s days, there is no more intimate way to ponder the peculiarities of evolution.



FROM SCENIC The modernist mood of the 228-passenger Scenic Eclipse was inspired by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen’s superyacht Octopus (“Why can’t we all sail like billionaires?”). So were its amenities, which include eight restaurants, nine bars and lounges, suites up to 2,659 square feet, two helicopters, and a submarine. All-weather water gear abounds. On Antarctic sailings (you will see orcas!) stand-up paddleboarders can go forth among ice floes, then toast the achievement at a whiskey bar with more than 100 selections.



The Aqua Mare’s maiden Galápagos voyage is this month. For unbiased guidance on which boat to book, contact Ashton Palmer, Ashton@expeditiontrips.com.

FROM SEABOURN King penguins are remarkable for their beauty and their vast breeding colonies on South Georgia Island—one of the stops on the December 2022 Antarctic sailing of the Seabourn Venture. Designed in “explorer” style by Adam Tihany, it launches this July with trips up north, followed by cruises around the Caribbean and Central and South America. On board: two submarines and a 26-member expedition crew with naturalists and a photo team to help you capture the memories.



FROM SILVERSEA Yes, you’ll have a butler on the Silver Cloud, and en suite dining—it’s an expedition ship, but it’s still Silversea! And if a polar plunge is on your bucket list (no, not watching a seal do it, but you, in a bathing suit, in Antarctic waters), Silversea will be at your service for that, too. They provide a safety harness and, once you’re back onboard, a heated bathrobe and glass of champagne. Bragging rights forever.



FROM LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS Polar bear cubs emerge from their dens in April, when Arctic nature is at its most mesmerizing. But before the arrival of the pioneering Lindblad company’s two new 61-cabin ships—National Geographic Endurance and Resolution, both the highest ice category—only researchers could witness these babies, and the early Arctic spring’s “magic hours.” The experience is sweetened onboard by a large spa, camp-out glass igloos (with room service), and a science hub, where experts will answer questions. T&C



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