

BEST PLACES TO SKI & STAY IN NORTH AMERICA

Condé Nast Traveler

20th Anniversary Contest
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A TRIP
TO
MEXICO
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

DECEMBER 2007

ITALY

INSIDER'S ROME

AFRICA

IDYLIC ISLANDS,
SUPER SAFARIS

EXTRA
HOLIDAY
GIFTS
FOR TRAVELERS

40 TRIPS OF A LIFETIME
ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES—AND HOW TO GET THEM

**AFFORDABLE
FAMILY
TRAVEL**

14 IDEAS FOR
EVERY AGE



Renowned silversmith Juan Carlos Pallarols in his Buenos Aires workshop.

Metal Man | 🏠 🗺️

Meet Juan Carlos Pallarols, a world-famous silversmith whose clients have included Pope John Paul II and the Prince of Wales. The Pallarols family has been working with silver for six generations. Juan Carlos will show you around the family's San Telmo workshop and reveal the techniques he uses to create his works of art, which blend southern European traditions with South American images. Cost: \$640. Source: Cindy Fernandez (see Kenya).

during a school break (April, August, or December) or May's heavy rains. Cost: \$4,000, including three nights' accommodation in student housing. Source: Linda Friedman, Custom Safaris, Bethesda, Maryland (866-530-1982; linda@customsafaris.com; customsafaris.com).

MADAGASCAR

A Hidden Tribe | 🏠 🗺️

Live three days with the Antandroy, considered the fiercest and most tradition-bound tribe in the country. The "People of the Thorn Bush," as they are known, inhabit a harsh land that has kept them largely separate from other Malagasy peoples. Meet with the *ombiasy* (local healer), learn how to use a *piletse* (zebu-hide sling-shot) and a *lefona* (spear), take a zebu cart to the local market, and visit ancestral tombs deep in the forest, where you'll also likely encounter rare lemur species. The prime season is April through September. Cost: \$3,120, including three nights' accommodation in a mobile tent. Source: Daniela Bonanno, Absolute Travel, New York City (800-736-8187, ext.



Looking for More?

Want even more unforgettable encounters? For 100 additional once-in-a-lifetime experiences, plus this article in an easy-to-print PDF, just go to cntraveler.com/dreamlist.

308; dbonanno@absolute-travel.com; absolutetravel.com).

SOUTH AFRICA

A Royal Performance | 🏠 🗺️

Sit in King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu's enclosure at the

eNyokeni Palace to watch the Reed Flute Dance, a full-day procession of 10,000 Zulu maidens that happens on the first weekend in September. You'll have a prime seat from which to witness each woman presenting the king with her reed during this ancient ceremony, and your guide—a personal friend of the royal family—may even snag you an introduction to the king himself. Cost: \$2,600, including two nights' accommodation. Source: Daniela Bonanno (see Madagascar).

AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

Artists of Argentina | 🏠 🗺️

Get a two-day education in twentieth-century Argentine art, including visits to the back rooms of two leading Buenos Aires art galleries, two of the country's most distinguished privately held collections, and two studios of living artists such as Luis Felipe Noé and León Ferrari. You'll be accompanied by a bilingual art historian and privately chauffeured for seven hours each day. Cost: \$2,388. Source: Vanessa Guibert Heitner, Limitless Argentina, Buenos Aires (202-536-5812; vanessa@limitlessargentina.com; limitlessargentina.com).

Paddle with a Pro | 🗺️

Spend a day kayaking around the southern tip of Patagonia with Norberto Mendez, who was on Argentina's 1988 Olympic kayaking team. Polish your paddling technique with this former national champion

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Spend a day kayaking around the southern tip of Patagonia with Norberto Mendez, who was on Argentina's 1988 Olympic kayaking team. Polish your paddling technique with this former national champion while he leads you through the Beagle Channel, which winds around the Tierra del Fuego archipelago and attracts a wide variety of wildlife, from penguins to sea lions to Antarctic fur seals. Time your trip to correspond with the Southern Hemisphere's summer (mid-October through mid-March). Cost: \$1,000. Source: Emmanuel Burgio, Blue Parallel, Potomac, Maryland (800-256-5307; info@blueparallel.com; blueparallel.com).

GUATEMALA

Magic Carpet Ride | 🏠 🗺️

Enter the closely guarded workshop of Antigua's most celebrated *alfombra* family. *Alfombras* are street carpets made of dyed sawdust, flowers, and pine needles that are laid along the route of the religious procession during Holy Week celebrations here. For the past half century, the Armas family has been creating these works of art, and their *alfombras* have been the subject of a *National Geographic* film. In multiple visits to the workshop during the week before Easter, you'll talk to the family and see the carpet in different stages of construction. Cost: \$500. Source: Jim Kane, Culture Xplorers, Kansas City (215-923-6800; jim@cultureexplorers.com; cultureexplorers.com).

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BRAZIL

Football Fever | 🗺️

Watch a soccer match in the Maracanã Stadium—one of the largest in the world—with Marcelo Gonçalves Costa Lopes, a member of Brazil's 1998 World Cup team. Gonçalves, as he's known in Brazil, will take you onto the turf of this famous stadium before the game, invite you to his VIP box to watch the match, and then introduce you to players from some of South America's top teams afterward. Cost: \$7,000. Source: Emmanuel Burgio (see Argentina).

UNITED STATES

The Dino Hunter | 🗺️ 🏠

Go on a summertime dinosaur dig in Montana with Jack Horner, world-renowned paleontologist and technical adviser to *Jurassic Park*. Cost: \$5,000, including a donation to the Museum of the Rockies. Source: Bill and Pam Bryan, Off the Beaten Path, Bozeman, Montana (800-445-2995; bryan@offthebeatenpath.com; pamb@offthe

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