

# NETJETS



## RENAISSANCE MAN

Nacho Figueras talks business beyond polo

## TO THE EXTREME

The different sides of Alaska's heli-ski scene

## REAL ESTATE REALITY

How the market reacts to this changing world

## THE GREATER GOOD

Philanthropy is high on the menu of top chefs

## CHARTER LIFE

The perfect journey awaits on the ocean

A timely roundup of travel news, trends, and destinations, as well as must-have accessories.



## THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL

The world looks very different now than it did at the beginning of the year. Alex Erdman Ely, Alexandra Hanover, Barkley Hickox, and Brooke Lavery (above, clockwise from top), the women behind leading travel consultancy Local Foreigner, a NetJets partner, speak about leisure travel now—and what the months to come might bring.

This spring, the golden age of travel came to a screeching halt, nearly overnight. In mere days, we went from a lifestyle of complete freedom—you could discover a dreamy Southeast Asian beach or romantic Tuscan road while scrolling your phone on Wednesday and be strolling through that very place by the weekend—to having to think twice before venturing out. This change in our habits has served as a stimulus for self-reflection in many of us. Naturally, some of our priorities on how we travel, and what we look for when we do, have evolved—as explained by the four owners of Local Foreigner.

**HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED THE TRAVELER MINDSET?**

The mindset of travelers at this moment largely depends on their perceived risk, which is tied to where they live and the behaviors of their friends and family. We cannot speculate when our complete freedom to move around the globe will be restored, but it is safe to predict that travelers will not take that freedom for granted. Nibbling that croissant at a café in Paris will taste much sweeter on the other side of these restrictions. Perhaps we will be more intentional with our travel decisions—more likely to choose our destinations deliberately, devoting more of our time and attention to each stop on our itinerary.

**FOR OPTIMISTIC AND ADVENTUROUS TRAVELERS, OUR CURRENT MOMENT POSES A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCES. WHERE ARE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES?**

The strategy of contrarian travel is to go against the grain—to visit the places nobody's noticing, or to flip the calendar and explore during the off-season. Benefits include a secluded experience at a lower price and usually very grateful staff. Right

**HIGHLAND HEAVEN**  
Glen Affric, a 10,000-acre estate in Scotland, offers an ideal, isolated escape.



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now, many travelers are making short hops, visiting boutique hotels close to home and “staycationing” in their home state. Contrarians are going the distance—literally. They’re blazing trails to three bucket-list destinations, open like never before to travelers who are willing to make the journey: East Africa for safari, the Maldives for postcard-perfect beach sunsets, and the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador for close encounters of the reptilian kind.

In East Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda are all open, and you can expect near-empty luxury lodges at discounted prices. Plus, the game-viewing is more private than ever, and the conservations need tourist dollars to continue admirable and necessary wildlife protection efforts. In the Maldives, social distancing is a way of life at the dozens of private islands home to luxury properties; the hardest decision is sussing out which is right for you (which is where we come in). Meanwhile, in South America, Ecuador is open and seeing a trickle of tourists return to pay homage to the vibrant marine and avian life that call the Galápagos archipelago home. (Aren't we all dying to see a blue-footed booby up close and personal?) While typically, top

**DREAM DESTINATIONS**  
From top: Lake Kora, in the Adirondacks, New York state, and La Chartreuse de Cos d'Estournel, near Bordeaux, remain ideal places for celebrations.



Galápagos cruises and properties book out up to a year in advance, now is the time to experience the science lessons of Darwin for yourself on short notice.

**WHAT TRENDS HAVE EMERGED DUE TO COVID-19 THAT ARE HERE TO STAY?**

COVID-19 has impacted every sector of life, and surely some changes will have rippling effects for the future. The newfound dedication to cleanliness at hotels, restaurants, and airports is undoubtedly here to stay—there is no way to go back on that. While the last six months have held a lot of darkness, the one positive thing 2020 has given us is time—time with our kids, time to reorganize and reprioritize, and time to refocus on what we want out of life going forward. We are seeing a lot of clients book a series of monthlong villa stays; with opportunities for remote work and school, there has never been a better time to experience living in a new destination, as opposed to just stopping by for a visit. Lastly, among our clients who are traveling, we are starting to notice early signs of a shift toward discretion and away from sharing on social media. On one hand, people are eager to share their amazing experiences, especially after spending so much time at home; but on the other hand, there is a sense of vulnerability to criticism and a hesitation to broadcast joy during a tumultuous time. The unexpected result is that suddenly we

DAVE HALL, OWNER, TULLOCH

are seeing people set their phone down and travel for themselves, instead of with the goal of checking off a list or posting to a profile.

**ARE DESTINATION CELEBRATIONS OFFICIALLY DEAD?**

Pre-COVID-19, destination celebrations had gone from a trend to a way of life, and we were always scooting off to far-flung locales to celebrate marriages, or decamping en masse to fête a milestone birthday. Now, with a series of proper COVID tests and precautions in place, it is certainly possible to create a safe bubble with room for good old-fashioned fun. Just a few hours' drive from Manhattan, for instance, is an incredible private 1,000-acre estate in the Adirondacks called Lake Kora, which has the grandeur you'd expect of a former 19th-century Great Camp, with a side of the rustic coziness we're all craving. Or, not terribly far from Bordeaux, nestled in the Cos d'Estournel vineyards, La Chartreuse, the private family home of owner Michel Roybier, is available for takeovers. Roybier is, of course, a hospitality icon—the man behind the incredible and exclusive La Réserve hotels that dot France and are raising their first flags in Switzerland. And for Londoners, it's a quick NetJets flight to the Scottish Highlands to play with friends on the 10,000-acre estate of Glen Affric, which is fit for a blissful bash year-round—and we'll always raise a whisky to that.

**LOCAL FOREIGNER**

For a novel perspective on travel, it's invaluable to be novel yourself—and the all-female team at this Manhattan-based travel consultancy is anything but conventional. Founded in 2012 with a mission of pairing proactive personalization with transparency and integrity, the highly experienced team, which now includes 18 members, boasts a sterling reputation across the globe. As a NetJets partner, Local Foreigner offers NetJets Owners unlimited access to the firm's hotel desk for quick bookings as well as a \$1,000 credit for travel planning. [localforeigner.com](http://localforeigner.com)



“It is possible to create a safe bubble with room for good old-fashioned fun.”