

Urban All-Stars

The essential things to see,
do, and eat in six great cities
around the West.



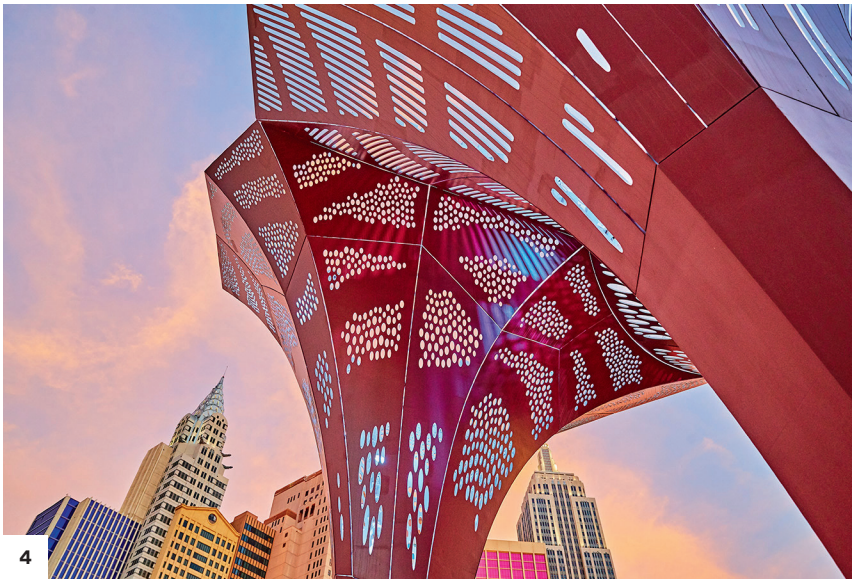
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DANIEL KIM PHOTOGRAPHY / STOCKSY; NICOLE MORGENTHAU; VISIT SEATTLE / LABASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY; JAMES BUEH; SUSTAINABLE RESTAURANT GROUP; JILL RICHARDS



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4. Shade sculptures cooling the Park in Las Vegas.
5. Stand-up paddleboarding on the Salt River near Phoenix.
6. Happy hour nigiri at Portland's Bamboo Sushi.

Portland's charms range from books, bikes, and food trucks to a vegan bar and a bagpiping unicyclist.

BY JESSICA SPIEGEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NASHCO

Rose City Confidential



Outsmart pricey happy hours
at RingSide Steakhouse.

Portland is a small town—an especially creative, entrepreneurial one—disguised as a major city. Its thriving maker culture shines in the close-knit food cart scene, handmade wares at the busy Saturday Market, and frequent celebrations of area artists.

International food carts

More than 500 carts scattered around town in stationary “pods” draw crowds all day. The **Cartopia** pod in Southeast is popular with the late-night crowd, but the sprawling **Cartlandia** pod on SE 82nd Avenue surrounds the brick-and-mortar Blue Room Bar, where you can bring in your food cart grub to pair with your locally brewed beer.

Soccer fandom

Forget American football: Two major-league soccer teams—the **Portland Thorns** and **Portland Timbers**—play to enthusiastic crowds in downtown Providence Park. Sing and cheer with the Rose City Riveters and Timbers Army fan groups on game days, or visit one of the city’s many soccer-centric bars—**4-4-2**, the **Horse Brass Pub**, the **Toffee Club**, and **Beulahland** stand out—to feel the love in the off-season. AAA members receive a discount on Thorns ticket prices.

City of books

Everybody knows about **Powell’s**, but it’s still a must. Browse 1 million books in the enormous block-long store. When you’re overwhelmed, retreat to the less-trafficked Rare Book Room on the third floor or the in-house coffee shop for a respite. In the Orange Room, find an array of items including Powell’s merch, embroidered patches, and Egg Press greeting cards.

Get your cycle on

See Portland like a local—on two wheels. The bike-sharing program **Biketown** is easy to use, with more than 1,000 neon-orange cruisers available all over the city. Hop on the Waterfront Loop downtown at Tom McCall Waterfront Park for a casual 2.6-mile ride that takes you over the Steel and Hawthorne Bridges and along the Willamette River, or coast through the quiet Eastside Greenways for an insider’s view of neighborhoods.

Best bites

Happy hour means great food at fantastic value. Head to old-school **RingSide Steakhouse** for a \$3.95 gourmet cheeseburger, **Doug Fir Lounge** for \$1 oysters, or the vegan **No Bones Beach Club** for \$6 “crab” cakes. **Bamboo Sushi**, the world’s first certified sustainable sushi restaurant, is usually a splurge—but in the early evening, it’s one of the city’s best deals.

Urban forest

Nature is just around the corner. Amble directly from the busy sidewalks of Northwest into **Forest Park**. The lush escape has more than 80 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. On some Saturdays, you can take a free walking tour to learn about park history or the use of local flora in beer making.

Monthly art walks

Galleries celebrate new shows each month during **First Thursdays** in the Pearl District and **Last Thursdays** in the Alberta Arts District. In summer, the latter takes on the flavor of a street party, with live musicians and performances. Patrons mingle while browsing handmade jewelry, vintage ceramics, and unique art.

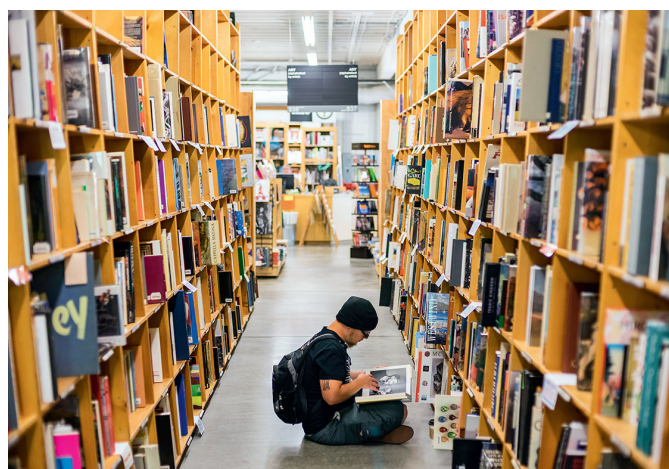
Snow year-round

The triangular mountain on Portland’s horizon is home to the only year-round skiing on real snow in the United States. **Mt. Hood Meadows** is its largest winter playground, but you can head to **Timberline** for skiing or snowboarding without consulting a calendar. The lower areas are open from fall through spring, while the upper Palmer Glacier lifts operate from May into early September.

Keep Portland weird

Get your quirk on at the fabulous **Paxton Gate** curiosity shop or at **Darcelle XV**, where Darcelle XV—the country’s oldest drag queen—still performs her sassy routines well into her 80s. Keep an eye out for the kilt-wearing **Unipiper**, who plays the bagpipes (which sometimes spout flames) while riding his unicycle. ●

JESSICA SPIEGEL is a writer based in Portland.



TOP: Octogenarian drag queen Darcelle XV wows the crowd at her eponymous club. **MIDDLE:** A reader pores over a book at Powell’s, which offers plenty of tomes to browse and buy, plus a bevy of made-in-Portland wares. **BOTTOM:** Visitors to verdant Forest Park can roam miles and miles of groomed trails.

Passengers take in the views from aboard the Bainbridge Island Ferry.

Discovering Seattle



The high-tech boomtown offers natural splendor, fascinating history, and free-spirited fun to curious visitors.

BY PAM MANDEL

From scruffy lumber town to buzzy metropolis, Seattle is no stranger to rapid growth. Yet the city's appeal can still be found in its panoramic skies, evergreens, and Puget Sound shores.

Get subterranean

Beneath the bustling streets of Pioneer Square you can still find the tin ceilings and brick foundations that survived the town's bawdy logging past. After a fire took out the entire city center in 1889, Seattle raised the streets and rebuilt over the ashes of burned-out buildings. The real draw of Bill Speidel's **Underground Tour** is the guides who retell local history with humor and style.

Live radio

KEXP is the on-air voice of the city's independent music scene and an avid proponent of all kinds of new tunes. See the influential radio station in action as it broadcasts near the Space Needle at Seattle Center. The public Gathering Space has a café, a record store, and the KEXP front desk, where you can sign up for in-studio concerts or the daily tour.

Views from the water

Any ferry will give you skyline vistas, but the **Bainbridge Island Ferry** shows the city's best side before dropping you a short walk from the gourmet treats at Mora Iced Creamery, sweet and savory baked goods at Blackbird Bakery, and craft-rich window-shopping.

Local wares

The weird, wonderful **Archie McPhee** novelty store has been selling rubber finger puppets, boxing nuns, and bacon bandages for over 30 years. There's nothing here you need, but who cares? Kids love it. Want something more grown-up? Head to **Revival** on Capitol Hill for vintage fashion, jewelry, and work by local artists.

Puget Sound flavor

The Sound's abundance extends to its creative chefs. Edouardo Jordan's **JuneBaby** is stacking up awards (including a James Beard) for its Southern cooking with area ingredients, down to the rhubarb in the flip, a frozen dessert served in a Dixie cup. At Renee Erickson's

brightly appointed **Bar Melusine**, the food is French Atlantic, but the Hama Hama oysters come from Hood Canal waters. Mutsuko Soma's **Kamonegi** features Northwest seafood and soba noodles often made from regionally sourced buckwheat.

A taste of old Seattle

Georgetown is the rare neighborhood that still feels like old Seattle. Ramble alongside the weathered brick warehouses to discover hidden delights. **Fran's Chocolates** is housed in the original Rainier Brewery building; drop in for a taste and admire the airy space. At the funky **Georgetown Trailer Park Mall**, vendors sell vintage what-nots, local art, and cake (yes, cake) from a courtyard of retro trailers.

Capitol Hill nightlife

The city's LGBTQ nexus is the heart of Seattle's welcoming bar scene. Kitschy **Unicorn** is fun with its bright carnival decor and arcade games. For the ultimate in cocktails (there's a \$650 Sazerac on the menu), head to **Canon**, home of the largest whiskey collection in the Western Hemisphere. **Big Mario's** has slices of New York-style pizza up front and a classic dive bar in the back.

Cozy hangouts

The **Elliott Bay Book Company** on Capitol Hill is a sprawling temple to the written word—don't miss the local author section in the front. There's a café on-site, but you can also take your books around the corner to **Caffe Vita** and settle in for meticulously roasted coffee, quiet reading, and people-watching.

Asian influences

The **Wing Luke Museum** documents the role Seattle's Asian Pacific immigrants continue to play in the region's culture. Take the Historic Hotel Tour, where time seems to stand still. Walk through the 1910 general store at street level before heading up to the austere furnished boardinghouse, which brings to life the personal past of the community that helped shape the city. ●

PAM MANDEL writes and plays the ukulele in Seattle.



TOP: Raw oysters with mignonette on ice beckon at Bar Melusine.

MIDDLE: Bill Speidel's Underground Tour reveals Seattle's hidden past through subterranean tunnels. **BOTTOM:** Patrons enjoy snacks, excellent coffee, vinyl browsing, and deejayed music at La Marzocco Café in the KEXP Gathering Space.

Beyond the Strip

Just off the Strip, the Park hosts outdoor entertainment, alfresco dining, and two water walls made of stones from Indonesian lagoons.



Get to know Las Vegas like a local,
from downtown to Chinatown,
Red Rock Canyon to Hoover Dam.

BY MATT VILLANO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES BUETI

Though Las Vegas goes to outlandish lengths to welcome visitors, it can be hard for out-of-towners to get to know it. The casinos, shows, and buffets grab the attention, but there's more to the city than those neon billboards lining the Strip will tell you.

Culinary hot spot

The most authentic dining experiences are downtown, and **Esther's Kitchen**, an "Italian soul food" restaurant in the Arts District, leads the way using many ingredients from the valley. Chef James Trees—a Vegas native—serves up a melt-in-your-mouth porchetta, tender meatballs, and sourdough-crust pizzas with ample helpings of fresh toppings, such as asparagus, cauliflower, and truffle cheese.

Waterworks

Nearly every resort has a pool scene—with entertainment, bottle service, and cabanas—but none is as lively as the **Pool District at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas**. It boasts three different venues: the Marquee Dayclub Pool, run like an outdoor nightclub under the bright desert sun; the Chelsea Pool, quieter and more private; and the Boulevard Pool, overlooking the Strip and offering foosball.

Museum madness

It's no secret that this town has had connections with organized crime over the years, but a stop by the **Mob Museum** will help you understand how deep those ties truly run. A new exhibit spotlighting Prohibition doubles as a speakeasy, where visitors can order cocktails with house-made moonshine.

Showtime

This year marks **Cirque du Soleil's** 25th anniversary in Las Vegas, and—with six shows in production—the franchise shows no sign of losing its magic. **Mystère**, the original, is still running at Treasure Island, plus there are free behind-the-scenes demos of **Love** at the Mirage on Friday afternoons.

Thrill rides

Vegas has dozens of rides, but the scariest are accessed from atop the 1,149-foot-tall **Stratosphere Tower**, the highest point in town. There are four attractions in all,

including X-Scream, a roller coaster that hurtles passengers over the tower's edge. If that's not thrilling enough, there's SkyJump, a bungee-style plunge that sends jumpers 829 feet streetward in a matter of seconds.

Quiet respite

When the heat lets up, head to the **Park**, a public space between New York-New York and Park MGM, for fresh air and a quiet moment in the heart of the Strip. Visitors can bliss out to water features or catch up with friends over a draft brew and a game of giant Jenga at Beerhaus.

Chinatown eats

In Vegas, Chinatown is just a half-mile stretch of Spring Mountain Road, but for anyone seeking genuine Asian food, this is the place to be. **Hong Kong Garden Seafood & BBQ Cafe** serves the finest dim sum and crispy Peking duck in town. Top it off with a refreshing cup of sweet boba tea from one of the many shops that line the street.

Wild West

The best outdoor adventures near the city are at the western edge of the valley around **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area**. Drive the 13-mile scenic route for access to a variety of hiking trails. Outside the park boundaries, a half-day guided horseback tour with **Cowboy Trail Rides** will have you climbing past Joshua trees to a ridge with views of the skyline.

City insight

Vegas rose from pioneer outpost to bustling city thanks to the Hoover Dam—a deservedly popular destination. Instead of driving the whole way there, stop 30 minutes east in Boulder City and rent a bike. Then pedal the **River Mountains Loop Trail** to the **Historic Railroad Trail**, a path that runs through tunnels used to haul away rock during construction. Stop at the **Lake Mead Overlook** before the trail ends near the dam parking garage. Following the 10-mile path will give you more insight into Las Vegas than sitting in front of a slot machine ever will. ●

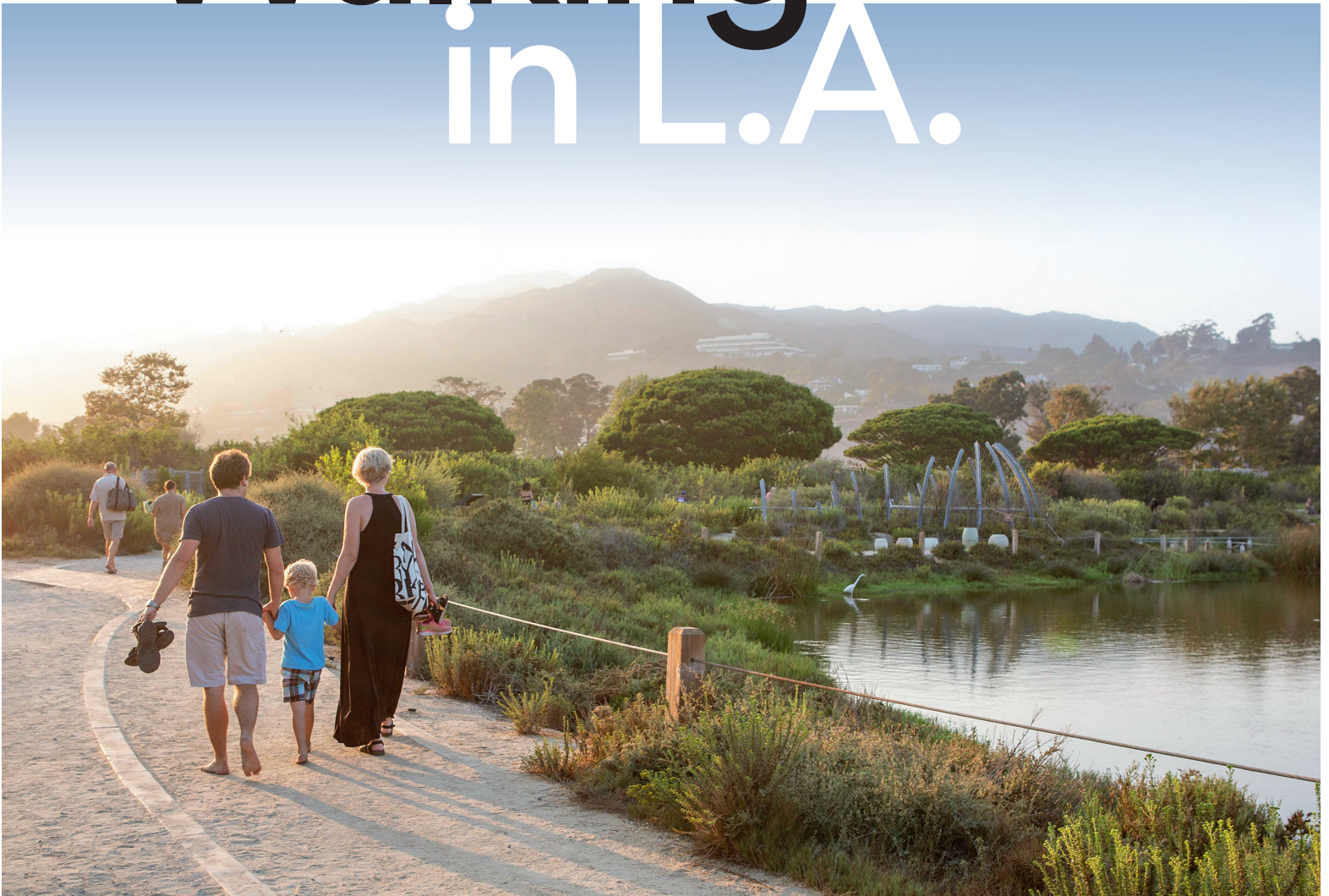
MATT VILLANO has written or contributed to 11 guidebooks about Las Vegas.



TOP: Yellowtail crudo is accompanied by house-pickled cherries, fennel, pistachio, and radish at Esther's Kitchen. **MIDDLE:** The Insanity ride spins passengers 64 feet over the edge of the Stratosphere Tower, where they stare down at the Strip below. **BOTTOM:** The Underground Old Fashioned comes tucked inside a false book at the Mob Museum.

Walking in L.A.

A sandy path dotted with interpretive panels runs through Malibu Lagoon.



Looking for the soul of the West's largest metropolis? Find the right neighborhoods and hit the streets.

BY AVITAL ANDREWS

MELISSA BARNES

Los Angeles gets more than 48 million visitors every year, and sometimes it feels like they're all at Universal Studios. Which is a pity, since the energetic, diverse, creative city has so much more to offer than what most people see. (And don't believe the famous lyric: Walking in L.A. can be great.)

Trendy shopping

West Hollywood is a hub of hip—and to Angelenos obsessed with the new and now, that means something. Stroll **Melrose Avenue**, where dozens of stores specialize in L.A.'s brand of bizarre but cool. Notable are **Necromance**, a curiosity shop that makes taxidermy trendy; **Goorin Bros.**, a bespoke hatmaker; and **Fred Segal**, the granddaddy of celebrity fashion.

Hottest bites

Melrose is also the epicenter of L.A.'s exploding food scene, and **Providence** is its shining star. Chef Michael Cimarusti artfully plates seafood dishes such as crème fraîche panna cotta topped with edible flowers and delicate uni, abalone, and geoduck. Down the street at wallet-friendly **Urth Caffé**, you're likely to spy a celeb while ordering organic coffee and a decadent Nutella Girella bun topped with toasted hazelnuts.

Stargazing

There's plenty to do in Griffith Park, but the **Griffith Observatory** is the must-see. Its role in *La La Land* rightfully flaunted its enchanting views of the heavens and the twinkling city below. The **Samuel Oschin Planetarium** wows with engaging, affordable shows (\$7).

High culture

You should see the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but you should also make time for the **J. Paul Getty Museum**. The structure, covered in 1.2 million square feet of travertine, is one of the city's most dramatic—as is the sweeping view of Los Angeles from the gardens. Inside, the Getty's walls are lined with works by Van Gogh and Monet.

Eccentric Venice

If you haven't been to the beach, you haven't really been to L.A. At **Venice Beach**, you can rent a

bicycle—or skates—and join the parade on the boardwalk, gliding past bodybuilders flexing on **Muscle Beach**, performers busking for change, artists selling psychedelic works, and surfers riding the Pacific's curling waves.

Santa Monica stroll

Fabled Route 66 ends its cross-country journey at the century-old **Santa Monica Pier**, where a 90-foot Ferris wheel lights up the night. A few blocks away, **Third Street Promenade** bustles with shops and eateries. At **Barney's Beanery**—with colorful booths and hubcap-covered walls—fuel up with buffalo chicken pizza and shoot some pool.

Miracle Mile meander

Tourists often skip this area, and that's a mistake. The renowned **Los Angeles County Museum of Art** (called "LACMA" by locals) is known especially for *Urban Light*, the heavily Instagrammed outdoor art installation. Close by, at **La Brea Tar Pits**, marvel at massive dinosaur skeletons, working fossil labs, and actual tar pits. Cap off your tour with a brew from one of **6th & La Brea's** 14 rotating taps and a heaping plate of sweet and spicy Korean fried chicken.

Hikes with a view

L.A. has surprisingly great hiking. Hollywood Hills' **Runyon Canyon** is a classic spot beloved for its dog friendliness, panoramic views, and three connecting paths of varying difficulty. Go early for cooler, less crowded trails, or join the daily free yoga class near the Fuller Avenue gate. For a kid-friendly trail near the ocean, head to **Malibu Lagoon State Beach**, which offers seabird-filled vistas over a serene estuary.

Classic eats

The city is full of dining rooms with rich histories and cult followings. **Canter's Deli** serves Jewish comfort food 24 hours a day. **Grand Central Market** is downtown's century-old food hall where vendors hawk a multicultural mélange of flavors. Nearby, 110-year-old **Philippe the Original** still plates the juiciest French dip sandwiches you'll find anywhere. ●

AVITAL ANDREWS is a former *Los Angeles Times* editor.



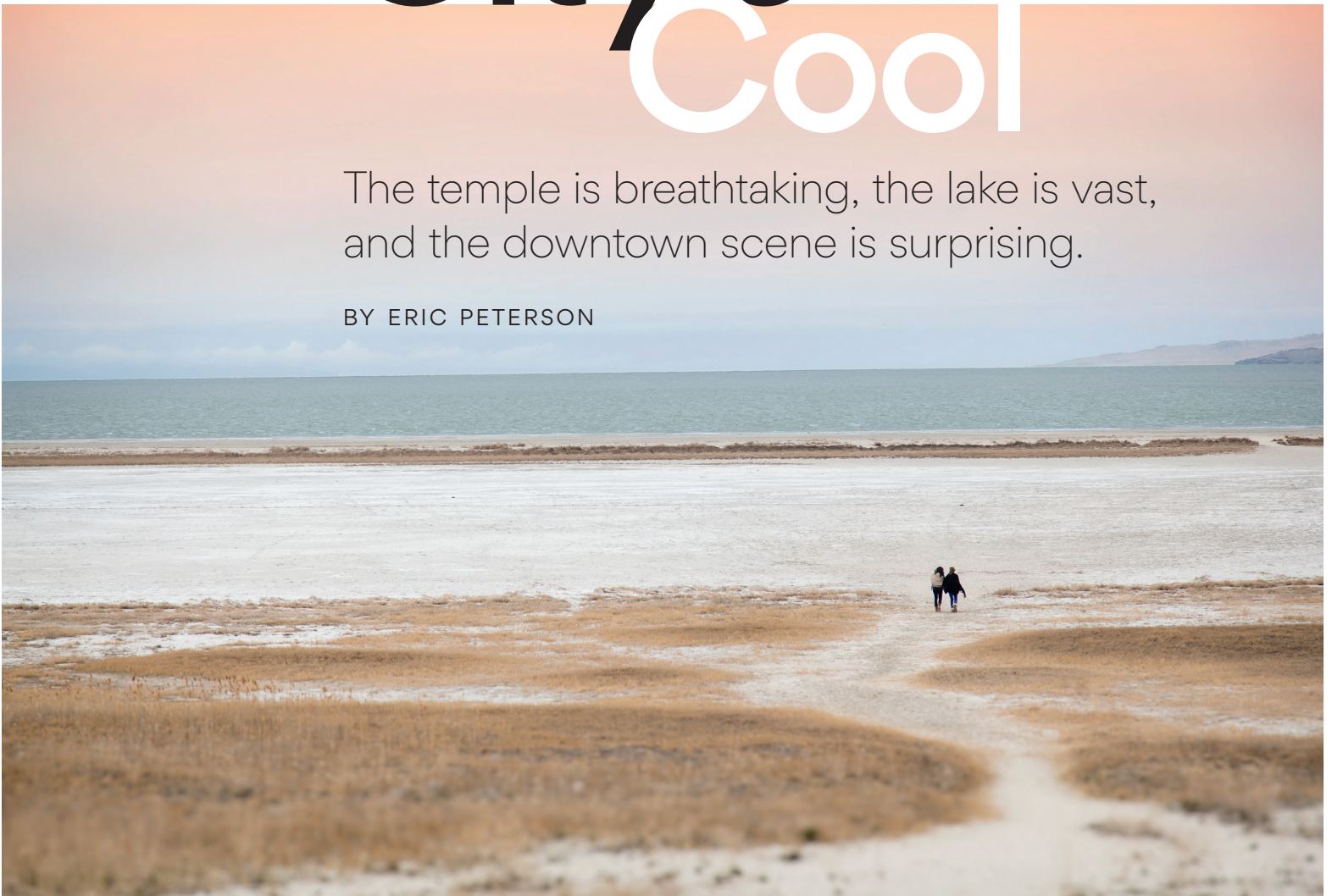
TOP: Outside the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *Urban Light* comprises 202 vintage street lamps and is illuminated from dusk to dawn. **MIDDLE:** The regularly changing menu at Providence may include lobster with matsutake mushrooms. **BOTTOM:** Admission to the Griffith Observatory and access to its telescopes are always free.

Salt Lake City's Cool

NICOLE MORGENTHAU

The temple is breathtaking, the lake is vast,
and the downtown scene is surprising.

BY ERIC PETERSON



Antelope Island's Bridger Bay
Beach offers lovely lake views.

Not so long ago, it was tough to find a cup of coffee in Salt Lake City, let alone a cocktail. But lately, things have changed. Now coffee shops abound, and the city is home to 18-odd breweries and distilleries. And while easy access to the outdoors has long lured visitors, now the dining scene beckons too.

South State Street

This strip—once SLC’s skid row—has morphed into a buzzy after-hours district full of bars, breweries, and dim sum joints. To sample the offerings, work your way north from 800 South. Start with an IPA at **Epic Brewing**, then grab a Blazing Jazz roll at **Sapa Sushi**. End the night with a live set at the **State Room**, a venue that hosts musicians from around the country.

Heart of the city

Anchored by the towering Salt Lake Temple, **Temple Square** is hard to miss. The temple itself is not open to the general public, but visitors can tour the 35-acre campus and—on Thursday nights or Sunday mornings—hear a free performance by the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir as its members sing in front of the 11,623-pipe organ.

Outsider art outside

Brick mason Thomas Battersby Child Jr. melded his Mormon faith and his career into a curious labor of love, the **Gilgal Sculpture Garden**. Child spent years creating folk-art masterworks in his Central City yard, such as a sphinx with the face of Joseph Smith and a self-portrait in brick and stone. Overgrown after Child’s death, the garden was rehabilitated in the 1990s then reopened as a city park.

Hot hood

Old meets new in the **9th and 9th** neighborhood. To wit: The 1928 **Tower Theatre** (which dodged a wrecking ball to become a venue for the Sundance Film Festival) sits just down the street from the **East Liberty Tap House**, the city’s first neighborhood bar. Inside, you’ll find a craft beer list that emphasizes Utah breweries alongside such elevated pub fare as butter-nut squash tacos. The area is also one of the city’s LGBTQ-friendliest zones: A 20-block stretch of 900

South in the district became Harvey Milk Boulevard in 2016.

Ski central

Utah resorts average 500 inches of snow yearly, and you don’t have to go far from SLC to hit the fluffy stuff. Just 30 miles from Temple Square sit four ski areas with some of the West’s most storied peaks. In Little Cottonwood Canyon, **Snowbird** and **Alta** pair powder with plenty of après-ski amenities. In Big Cottonwood Canyon, **Brighton** and **Solitude** are low-key, snowboard-friendly gems. En route to the slopes, you can fuel up with macarons and other treats at **Naborhood Bakery** in West Jordan.

Ancient waters

The city’s little-visited namesake is also one of the most fascinating ecosystems on earth. The **Great Salt Lake** is saltier than the ocean in places, but supports a wide variety of life, including brine shrimp (aka Sea-Monkeys). There’s no better time to explore than fall and winter, when the lake is quiet, still, and free of biting gnats. Hit the trail on the lake’s eastern edge in **Antelope Island State Park**, home to some 600 free-roaming bison.

Culinary star

Recently, Salt Lake has welcomed sundry farm-to-table restaurants. One standout? **Table X**. Here, the tonic water for the stellar cocktails is made in-house, as are the bread, butter, and Burrata. And the menu? The chefs change it constantly (68 times in one 22-month period), to follow the freshest ingredients. Expect dishes featuring locally raised meat, plus produce and herbs from the on-site garden.

Prehistoric Utah

At the **Natural History Museum of Utah**, you’ll learn about area plants, animals, and people, from prehistory to present. When you’re done watching paleontologists prepare specimens, walk out the front door onto the **Bonneville Shoreline Trail** to see the land firsthand: The path runs from Provo to Ogden along what was once the edge of prehistoric Lake Bonneville. ●

ERIC PETERSON has written guidebooks on the Rocky Mountain West states.



TOP: Come December, skiers flock to Snowbird to enjoy corduroy-soft groomers in Mineral Basin. **MIDDLE:** The pork pressé with turnip pavé, red cabbage purée, and radish appeared on Table X’s opening menu. **BOTTOM:** During the holidays, close to a million lights brighten Temple Square.

Phoenix Surprises



First Fridays draw artists and art lovers from around the city.

Outdoor fun meets urban cool in the Valley of the Sun, a place where you can kayak past wild horses by day, then sip cocktails in a decadent bar by night. And, no matter where you are in Greater Phoenix, you're never far from a saguaro-dotted peak or a delicious meal.

From the ashes

Phoenix was so named because, like the mythical bird, it rose from the ashes of its predecessor: the ancient, vanished Hohokam civilization. Look back at the **Pueblo Grande Museum**, home to the mud rooms and ball court of a 1,000-year-old village, and learn how those original residents irrigated the valley by carving the New World's largest canal system.

Desert in bloom

The **Desert Botanical Garden** slays the stereotype that deserts are all barren and beige. Its trails wind past magenta cactus blossoms, fuchsia penstemons, and sculptural succulents. During the nighttime *Electric Desert* installation (through May 2019), colorful lights dance across the flora in sync with enchanting electronica.

Colorful culture

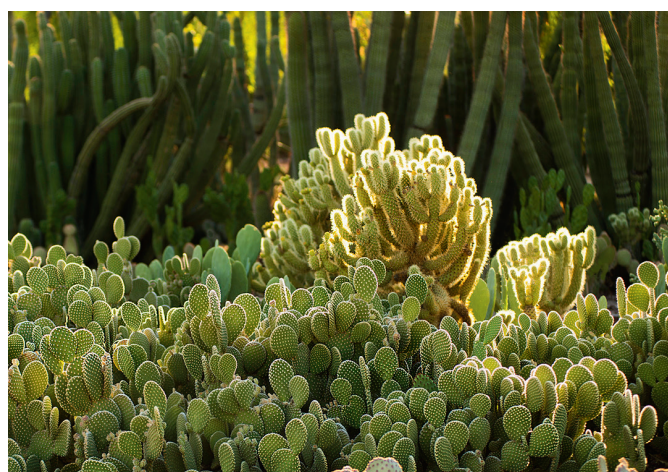
In **Roosevelt Row**, downtown Phoenix's arts district, bungalows are canvases for vibrant murals. During carnivalesque **First Fridays** and quieter **Third Fridays**, thousands of people converge here to gallery hop, watch street performers, and listen to live music at venues such as the **Nash**.

A hike with a view

At intervals around town, ruddy mountains jut from the valley floor, offering hikers an aerial perspective on the city. While **Camelback Mountain** is the iconic draw, **Piestewa Peak** has similar vistas, plus some easier trails. As you climb, you might spot red-tailed hawks riding on air currents. Feeling less ambitious? Drive past the Piestewa trailhead to the end of Squaw Peak Drive, then stroll serene paths among smaller hills.

Past meets present

In **Heritage Square**, Phoenix's original brick buildings have evolved into cultural hot spots. Tour the



TOP: At the Pueblo Grande Museum, visitors can walk through a reconstructed Hohokam pit house. **MIDDLE:** Creamy Mexican cheese and spicy Italian sausage star in a quesadilla at Roland's Cafe Market Bar. **BOTTOM:** The Desert Botanical Garden is home to more than 4,000 different plant species, including cholla, prickly pear, and organ-pipe cacti.



TOP TO BOTTOM: MARK LIPCZYNSKI; JILL RICHARDS; COURTESY DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN



Echo Canyon Trail, on Camelback Mountain, offers big valley views.

1895 **Rosson House** to hear how the city's early Anglo residents beat the heat and performed surgery. Then make a pilgrimage to the former Baird Machine Shop, a 1929 building now occupied by **Pizzeria Bianco**, which turns out pies crowned the best in America by *Bon Appétit*. The Rosa, replete with Parmigiano-Reggiano and Arizona pistachios, is nutty and delicious.

On the green

Golf is king in this sunny, leisure-loving city, and nearly 200 courses provide plenty of opportunities to play a round. Two public courses, **Troon North** and **We-Ko-Pa**, embrace the arid landscape, with fairways rippling through throngs of cacti and palo verde trees, and soaring mountains in the backdrop.

Fresh eats

This year, Nadia Holguin and Armando Hernandez, a husband-

wife team from Chihuahua, partnered with Chris Bianco of Pizzeria Bianco to open **Roland's Cafe Market Bar** in a 1917 building. In a way, Roland's is a microcosm of Phoenix culture: transplants from across the United States and Mexico meeting in a cool yet low-key setting. Taste the fruits of the international collaboration in a chiltepin chile-tinged coffee or a pizzalike mortadella quesadilla.

Water fun

A shimmering blue lake fringed by sienna cliffs. A river where bald eagles dive and wild mustangs splash. You'll find both—in the form of **Saguaro Lake** and the **Salt River**—just a short drive from

downtown. Join **Arizona Outback Adventures** for a guided excursion by kayak or stand-up paddleboard.

Old-school PHX

Phoenix's movers and shakers have been congregating at **Durant's** ever since 1950, when the eatery was founded by a former employee of Las Vegas gangster Bugsy Siegel. Enter the way the insiders do: Open the back door and walk through the kitchen. Then slide into a leather booth surrounded by flocked scarlet wallpaper, sip a gin martini, and strike a deal. ●

KERIDWEN CORNELIUS has also written for the *New York Times*, *Outside*, and *Scientific American*.

PLAN A TRIP

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MARK LIPCZYNSKI