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A Maori temple in New Zealand's Bay of Islands, a stop on an Enrichment Journeys trip.

TRIPS, TIPS & DEALS

Deep dive into the Pacific

By **PHIL MARTY** | Chicago Tribune

Most cruises in the South and West Pacific don't allow for much time in the ports. Enrichment Journeys solves that problem with a package that starts with a weeklong land tour of Australia before embarking on an 18-night Celebrity Cruises itinerary visiting New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii. The Australia tour first explores Sydney before flying to Uluru (Ayers Rock), then moving on to Cairns and Port Douglas and a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. The cruise includes a lot of days at sea but makes port in New Zealand's Bay of Islands and Auckland; Papeete, Moorea and Bora Bora in French Polynesia; and the Big Island, Maui and Honolulu in Hawaii. The trip, which departs the U.S. on April 2, 2018, is priced from \$7,999 per person, double occupancy, including round-trip air from Los Angeles. Air add-on is \$300 from New York, \$400 from Chicago and \$450 from Orlando, Fla. Other gateways available. Info: 888-546-8617, tinyurl.com/jyghmsw

Lots of winners

If you have a lot of time on your hands and are searching for new travel destinations, you might want to look over the list of 2016 World Travel Awards that were handed out in December. The reason you'll need lots of time is that virtually any category of travel you can think of is included in the list, from the world's leading adventure tour operator to the best desert resort. Adding to the voluminous list of kudos are categories for each continent, the Caribbean, etc. That's a lot of awards, which tends to take off the luster. But maybe you'll find a gem you never heard of, like that winning desert resort, Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa in Dubai. www.worldtravelawards.com

See Scotland in style

You'll get the royal treatment on The Ultimate Scottish Road Trip offered by Connoisseurs Scotland, which puts you behind the wheel of a Lamborghini LP570-4 Superleggera, an Aston Martin Virage, a Ferrari 458 Italia, an Audi R8 V10 Spyder or a similar high-performance car. Much of the seven-day/six-night tour traces the Scottish coastline while staying at five-star hotels and enjoying meals at Michelin-starred restaurants. Side trips along the way include a boat trip to Handa Island, noted for its seabird colonies, and famed Loch Ness. Cost of the trip is quoted in British pounds and converts to roughly \$5,637 per person, double occupancy. International airfare is not included. tinyurl.com/z9kuyeb

Phil Marty is a freelance writer.



REARVIZ

GEAR BOX

Be safer with a RearViz mirror

By **LORI RACKL**
Chicago Tribune

Riding a bike is one of the best ways to explore a destination.

And one of the best ways to ruin that cycling vacation? A wipeout.

To reduce your chance of a spill, arm yourself with a rearview mirror. The Australia-based company

RearViz sells an easily adjustable, arm-mounted mirror to help cyclists see cars and other bikers behind them without having to turn their heads and take their eyes off the road. The convex mirror allows for more peripheral vision, and the light, water-resistant armband makes for a comfortable fit.

I like to wear mine close

to the wrist, just above my sport watch. If you're cycling somewhere sunny, the thick band might result in a funky tan line. But that's just one more reason to wear sunscreen.

The RearViz Sports ST-35 model sells for about \$32 at www.rearviz.com.

lrackl@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @lorirackl

NEED TO KNOW

Cyclist Cancellara along for the ride

By **LORI RACKL**
Chicago Tribune

Trek Travel is partnering with Swiss cycling legend Fabian Cancellara to add some star power to the Spring Classics trips offered by the Madison, Wis.-based tour operator.

Cancellara — aka Spartacus — will be crashing the party for part of Trek Travel's Flanders With Fabian trip, a five-day journey (March 31 to April 4) that includes Belgium's Tour of Flanders race.

Trek is also running a



SCOTT MITCHELL/TEAMSKY.COM

Fabian Cancellara competes in the 2014 Tour of Flanders.

Paris-Roubaix trip (without Cancellara) April 6-10, where guests get to watch the pros battle it out on the famed cobblestones of the classic one-day competition. An Olympic gold medalist, Cancellara is a three-time winner of the Tour of Flanders and of the Paris-Roubaix.

The Tour of Flanders trip costs \$3,799 a person,

based on double occupancy; Paris-Roubaix is priced at \$3,499. That includes lodging, most meals, guides and the use of Trek road bikes with electronic shifting.

The trips can be combined into a 10-night itinerary for \$7,999.

Call (866) 464-8735 or go to www.trektravel.com.



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