

COOL BUCKET LIST TO NAVIGATE THE GLOBE

After you have done your first round of the common attractions of the world, what's next? Does your soul aspire to see places that are beyond the usual?

Here's a list of nine places!

-By Aruna Rathod

SAN FRANCISCO – (USA)

In the vast country, that USA is, a visit to San Francisco is a must on the passionate traveller's list. One of the world's great cities, the most endearing sights are the famous crimson bridge, cable cars, a sparkling bay, and streets lined with elegant Victorian homes.

Make sure you go to PIER 39. Located along the historic San Francisco waterfront, PIER 39's location provides the picture perfect backdrop for postcard views of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, Alcatraz, Angel Island and the famous city skyline.

An unmistakable landmark is the Golden Gate Bridge that spans 1.7 miles from San Francisco to the Marin Headlands. You should visit the Alcatraz Island, the site of the first lighthouse in the Western

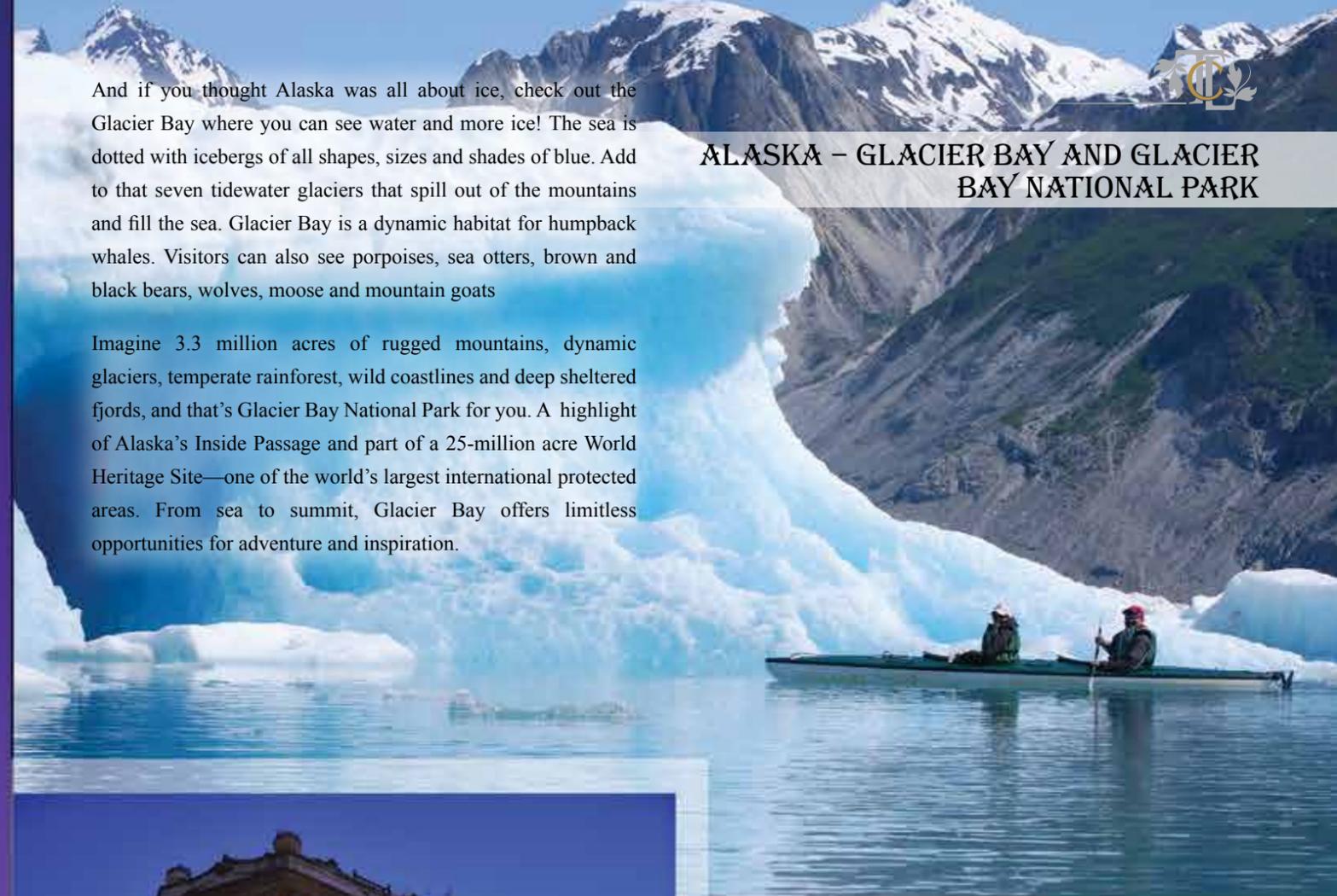
United States that later became a federal penitentiary from 1934-1963, housing famous convicts such as Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly. Now, this once infamous prison island is part of the Bay Area's 80,000 acres. Other spots are the Contemporary Jewish Museum, which is in downtown San Francisco. The Museum presents dynamic exhibitions and educational programs, exploring contemporary perspectives on Jewish culture, history and ideas. To get a feel of nature, visit the San Francisco Zoo and Gardens, a historic treasure with 1,000 endangered and rescued animals representing 250 species on view in 100 acres of lovely, peaceful gardens nestled against the Pacific Ocean.



ALASKA – GLACIER BAY AND GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

And if you thought Alaska was all about ice, check out the Glacier Bay where you can see water and more ice! The sea is dotted with icebergs of all shapes, sizes and shades of blue. Add to that seven tidewater glaciers that spill out of the mountains and fill the sea. Glacier Bay is a dynamic habitat for humpback whales. Visitors can also see porpoises, sea otters, brown and black bears, wolves, moose and mountain goats

Imagine 3.3 million acres of rugged mountains, dynamic glaciers, temperate rainforest, wild coastlines and deep sheltered fjords, and that's Glacier Bay National Park for you. A highlight of Alaska's Inside Passage and part of a 25-million acre World Heritage Site—one of the world's largest international protected areas. From sea to summit, Glacier Bay offers limitless opportunities for adventure and inspiration.

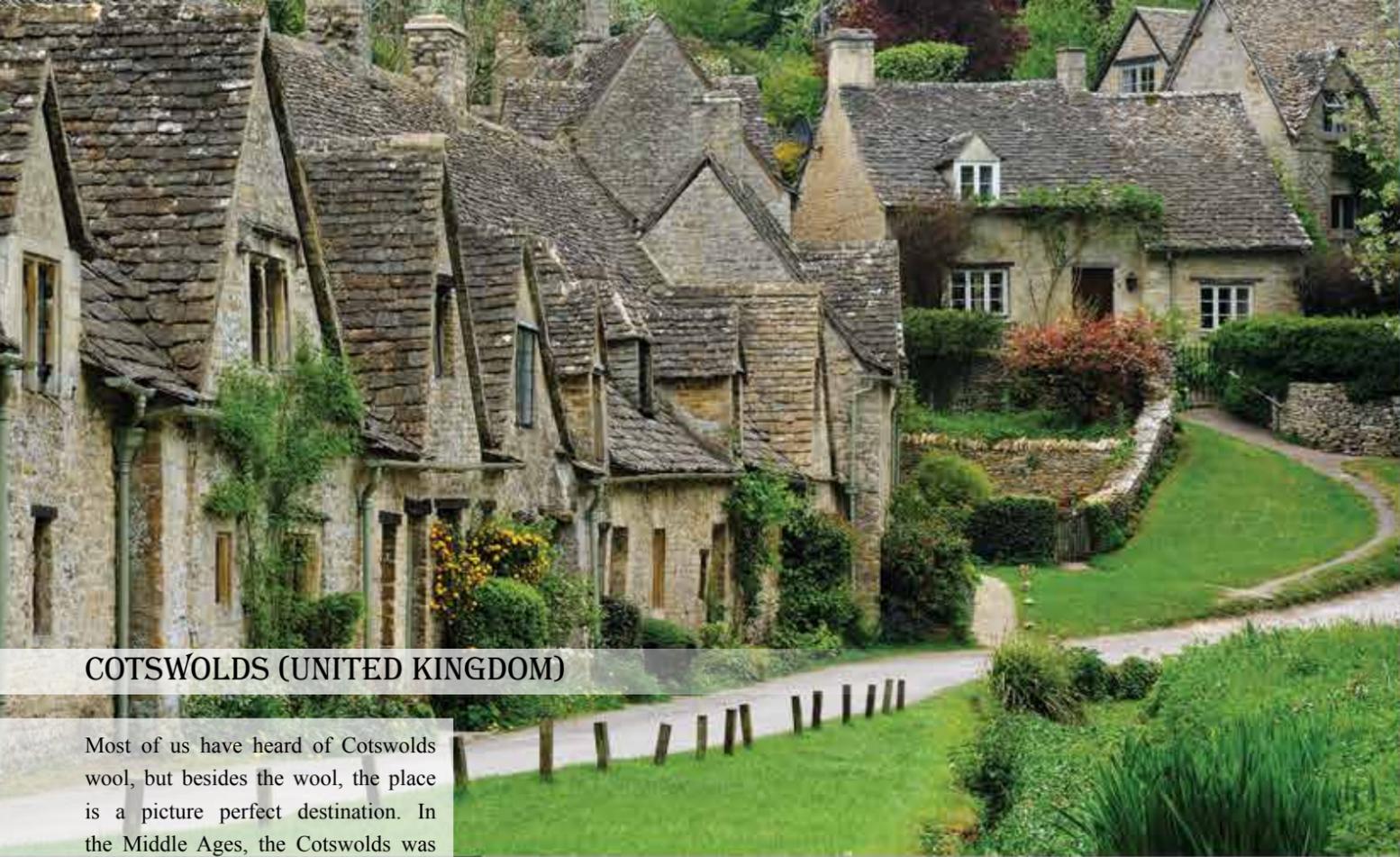


SOUTH AMERICA - ARGENTINA

Argentina offers vast rolling wine regions and snowy peaks in the north and expansive lakes, jagged peaks and kilometres of empty space in the south. Buenos Aires, its capital, is full of life and popular for its night fiestas. A cosmopolitan capital city, the historic part is the Plaza de Mayo, lined with stately 19th-century buildings, including Casa Rosada, the iconic, balconied presidential palace. Other major attractions include Teatro Colón, a grand 1908 opera house with nearly 2,500 seats, and the modern MALBA museum, displaying Latin American art. The heart of Palermo, Buenos Aires' most vibrant and walkable neighbourhood, has streets inspired by Paris' famous boulevards and green spaces that rival London's Hyde Park. It has the looks of a European city with the soul of Latin America.

Argentina is also a popular ski destination and there are plenty of romantic walks in the Lake District. A visit to the Iguazu Falls will impress as will the plentiful wildlife of the national park. San Telmo has antique stalls for browsing and ancient cafés to sip coffee in and listen to an abundance of live music while in Buenos Aires.





COTSWOLDS (UNITED KINGDOM)

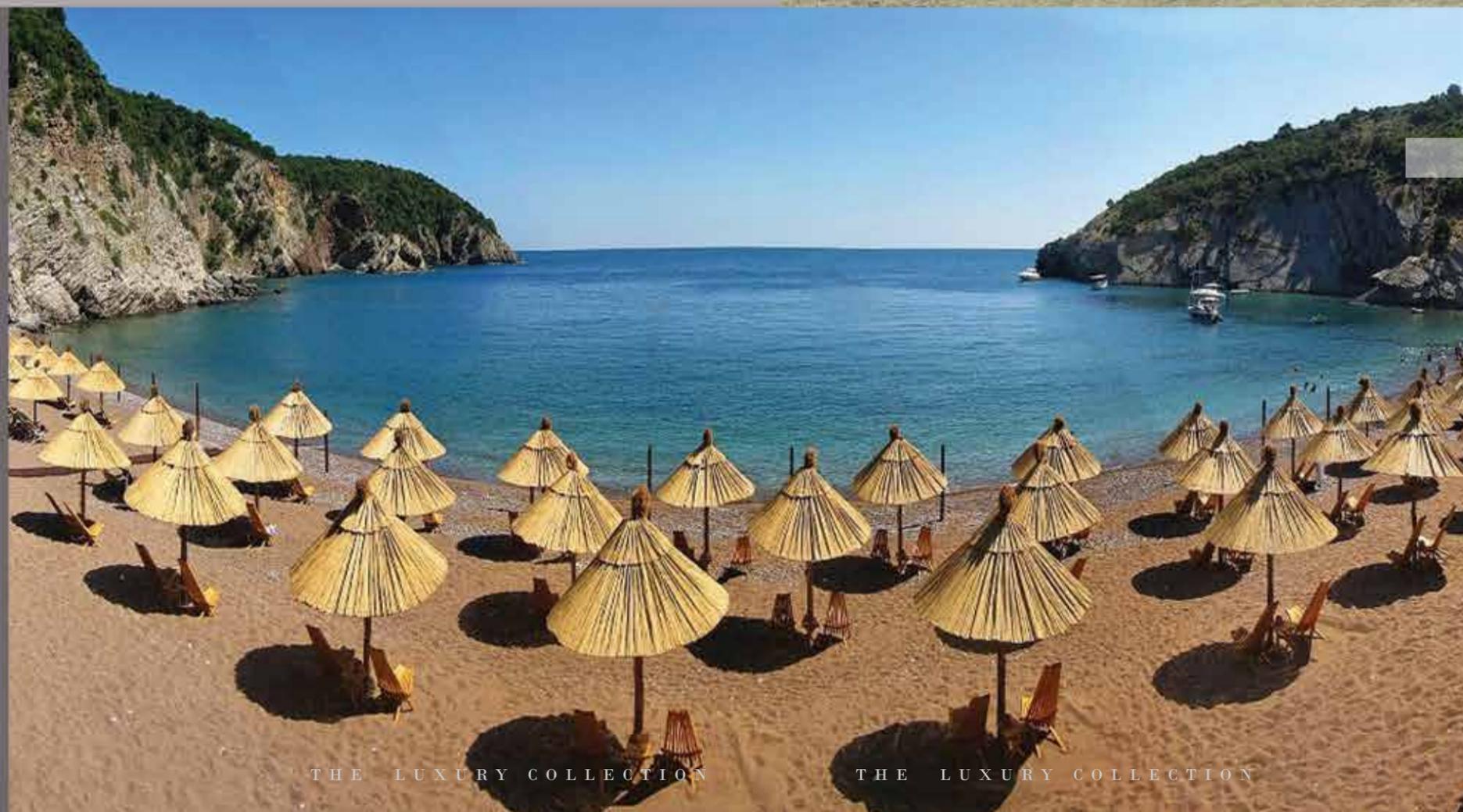
Most of us have heard of Cotswolds wool, but besides the wool, the place is a picture perfect destination. In the Middle Ages, the Cotswolds was well known throughout Europe as the source of some of the best wool. The Cotswolds were ideal for sheep so the Abbeys and monasteries raised huge flocks of the 'Cotswold Lions'. These native sheep were large animals with golden long fleece.

The Cotswolds covers a huge area – almost 800 square miles – and runs through five counties (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire). One of the delights of visiting the Cotswolds is exploring the different areas, each with its own identity, yet all with those defining Cotswold features: golden stone and rolling hills, the 'wolds'. It's relaxing and wonderful to explore the English villages of honey-coloured stone; visit lively market towns and the historic palaces, castles and country houses.

EASTER ISLAND – CHILE (SOUTH AMERICA)

Chile has many different adventures to offer tourists: stargazing in the driest desert in the world, millennial glaciers in the southernmost part of the planet, enchanted forests, and lakes located at the foot of massive volcanoes. It has islands full of legends, winemaking traditions, great challenges to be overcome, and the modern and accessible city of Santiago.

Easter Island is a Chilean territory, a remote volcanic island in Polynesia. Its native name is Rapa Nui. It's famed for archaeological sites, including nearly 900 monumental statues called moai, created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries. Explore Rapa Nui's pink-sand beaches, its volcanic cones and windswept grasslands. Discover the intriguing culture of the Rapa Nui people during Tapati, a traditional festival held in February in which local teams compete in challenges.



MONTENEGRO - EUROPE

Montenegro is a sovereign country located in the South Eastern part of Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula. Often referred to as the pearl of the Mediterranean, Montenegro is situated in the south of the Adriatic. Podgorica is the capital city, while Cetinje is proclaimed like a Royal Capital City. The settings are picturesque and you can choose from a coastline, relax and have lunch on the banks of Lake Skadar, and enjoy an evening walk in the Montenegrin mountains.

Make it a point to explore the Montenegro Coast and islands - Herceg Novi has lots of flowers and greenery, the old city, and countless stairs. This is the "City of the Sun". Perast is a small and unique picturesque place in the Bay of Kotor, with preserved ancient architecture, and is located near the famous island - Our Lady of the Rocks. There are plenty of other islands to explore.

MOSCOW AND ST. PETERSBURG – RUSSIA

Moscow is a must visit for its architecture. The Kremlin, which serves as the residence of the Russian President today, is an emphatic complex of palaces, cathedrals and walls. The iconic St. Basil's Cathedral is one of the most unique cathedrals while Gorky Park, Tsaritsyno and the Alexander Garden are beautiful gardens in the city. If performances are your cup of tea, Russia's national theatre, the Bolshoi Theatre, provides a huge variety. Take a hike up Sparrow Hills to absorb a beautiful panorama of the city.

Red Square remains, as it has been for centuries, the heart and soul of Russia. Few places in the world bear the weight of history to the extent that Moscow's central square does. From the 16th Century St. Basil's Cathedral - one of the most famous pieces of architecture in the world - to the constructivist pyramid of Lenin's Mausoleum, Red Square is rich in symbols of Russia's turbulent and intriguing past.

Majestic buildings, a rich history, culture and tradition makes St. Petersburg one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The second largest city in Russia, St. Petersburg is the country's cultural heart. View splendid architectural gems like the Winter Palace and the Kazan Cathedral, and give yourself plenty of time to browse the world-renowned art collection of the Hermitage. From the mysterious twilight of the White Nights to world-beating opera and ballet productions on magical winter evenings, St. Petersburg charms and entices in every season.

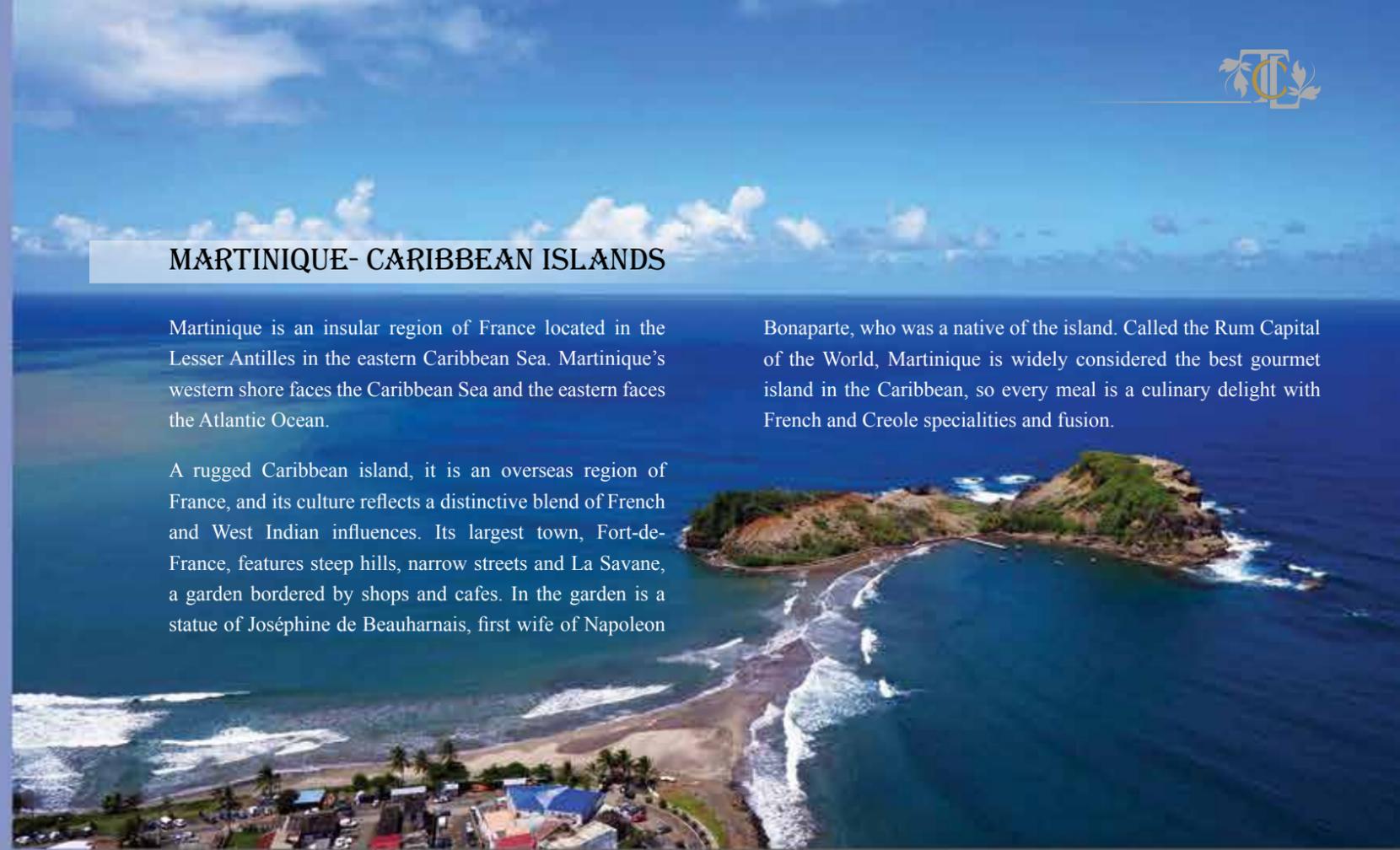


MARTINIQUE- CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Martinique is an insular region of France located in the Lesser Antilles in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Martinique's western shore faces the Caribbean Sea and the eastern faces the Atlantic Ocean.

A rugged Caribbean island, it is an overseas region of France, and its culture reflects a distinctive blend of French and West Indian influences. Its largest town, Fort-de-France, features steep hills, narrow streets and La Savane, a garden bordered by shops and cafes. In the garden is a statue of Joséphine de Beauharnais, first wife of Napoleon

Bonaparte, who was a native of the island. Called the Rum Capital of the World, Martinique is widely considered the best gourmet island in the Caribbean, so every meal is a culinary delight with French and Creole specialities and fusion.



KYOTO – JAPAN

Kyoto's prefecture stretches out from the southeast to the northwest in the central and northern parts of the Kansai region. It has four geographical features, the saw-toothed coastal area around Maizuru Bay in the northeast, the Tamba Mountains around its center, the Kyoto Basin in the southeast, and the Yamashiro Basin.

Kyoto is old Japan writ large: atmospheric temples, sublime gardens, traditional teahouses and geisha scurrying to secret liaisons. This is a city of some 2000 temples and shrines: a city of true masterpieces of religious architecture, such as the retina-burning splendour of Kinkaku-ji (the famed Golden Pavilion) and the cavernous expanse of Higashi Hongan-ji. Stunning Zen gardens, coupled with modern city buzzes and shifts all around, a waft of burning incense, or the sight of a bright vermilion torii gate marking a shrine entrance, are regular reminders that Kyoto remains the spiritual heart of Japan.

