



## **Category 1: North American travel**

### **GOLD**

#### **Jill K. Robinson, “What Can We Learn from the Hawaiian Concept of Kuleana? AFAR**

As Hawaii emerges from the pandemic on a mission to make its tourism more authentic, we consider the concept of Kuleana. In this lyrical essay, we begin to understand place as an entity to respect, and to seek permission when we trespass on that space. A well-written and well-timed guide for the new Hawaiian guest.

### **SILVER**

#### **Bill Fink, “America’s Loneliest Road,” [adventure.com](https://www.adventure.com)**

A gritty tale of a search for some life along a desolate highway even AAA could not love. Filled with danger, vast unpopulated stretches and no cellphone reception, Nevada’s Hwy. 50 can be downright hostile. A great story premise, well-executed.

### **BRONZE**

#### **Karuna Eberl, Key West Hemingway, NatGeoTravel**

A fresh and imaginative look at Hemingway’s legacy in Key West with ideas on how to channel the legendary writer without ending up in a brawl.

## **Category 2: International travel**

### **GOLD**

#### **Dina Mishev, “On the trail of the ghost cat,” Washington Post**

A expedition to the India territory of Ladakh in search of the mysterious snow leopard turns into a personal journey. This fast-moving tale takes you into the forbidding Ulley Valley to finally spot these magnificent and mysterious cats.

## SILVER

**David Swanson, “Visiting Vulcan’s Lairs: A Tour of Italy’s Mighty Volcanoes,” Discover Silversea**  
Don’t come to Italy just for the food, come for the volcanoes. This homage to Italy’s violent hills captures the dormant power of Vesuvius and its lasting imprint on the country.

## BRONZE

**Ruksana Hussain, “Savoring Palate Pleasers in Costa Rica,” The Travelers Table**  
This expedition to the Arenal volcano region of Costa Rica invokes all the senses, with lavish descriptions of regional cuisine, as well as breathtaking descriptions of adventures, from zip lining to night jungle tours.

## Category 3: Travel Tips

### GOLD

**Kari Bodnarchuk, “Reflecting on a winter of snow camping and its many peaceful pleasures,” Boston Globe**

This is a must read for newbies and beginners who seek to spend one or more nights camping in the snow. Sure, you need a tent, but which kind, and how best to customize it to keep warmth in, not just the cold out? Yes, dress and sleep in layers, but how to avoid moisture from breathing in your sleeping bag? Did you know there’s more than one type of fuel for camp stoves, and which is best? It’s all here and more, excellent stuff.

## SILVER

**David Swanson, “You Don’t Need a Big Ship to Cruise Alaska,” Los Angeles Times**

Some of the best cruise memories come during off-boat, onshore excursions. And many of those breathtaking side trips are available even if or when cruise ships are stuck in home port, say during COVID. Day trips, multi-day jaunts; by plane, train or boat; at several price points are clearly laid out for readers to plan a great getaway and experience amazing vistas and wildlife. Fly into Anchorage or Juneau and explore from there.

## BRONZE

**Eric Stoen, “How to Get From the Airport to Your Hotel,” Travel Babbo**

Much better than a list of options for getting from an airport to a hotel in a specific city, this piece walks the reader through the thought process and decision tree to determine the best option for the reader’s particular family in virtually any airport and city. Options are laid out clearly, with reasons that explain when different options might best fit the occasion, including size of family, convenience, pricing, time of day and much more. The package is well written, organized and thorough.

## Category 4: Shorts

### GOLD

**Jill K. Robinson, Into the Great Wide Open, Conde Nast Traveler**

A pandemic ode to a favorite destination of travels past. Robinson brings her word magic to the description of traversing Colorado’s Western Slope.

SILVER

**Brad A. Johnson, How to Make the Red Snapper a la Talla from Tamarindos Los Cabos, Food and Travel**

You can almost smell the woodsmoke in this telling of a cooking class on a ranch in Los Cabos. The descriptions are delicious, and you get a recipe to boot!

BRONZE

**David Latt, “Go with the flow” Out and About**

Who knew that the Rhine in Basel is so clean you can jump in the river and take a ride. This breezy story walks you through donning your suit and putting your clothes in a dry bag – called a Wicklefish – and jumping into the Rhine for a bucket-list experience.

**Category 5: Columns**

GOLD

**Brad A Johnson, series of California columns, Brad A. Johnson Travel+Food**

Start reading these columns and you don’t stop until the end. This series of sparkling columns illuminate the food scene in the Golden State. This collection includes his lavish introduction to LA dining, as well as a review of a “flipped” Los Feliz hotel and another gem of a motel he found along the Central Coast. Each word is savored.

SILVER

**Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi, Steel Guitar, Honolulu Star Advertiser,**

**So much has been written about Hawaii — how could there be more we don’t know. In Cheryl’s** capable hands, the islands and their history come to life. Who knew the steel guitar was created by accident? Or how much fun repelling could be? But what’s great are the people we meet along the way, such a ranchers who care for a wide variety of beloved critters on their Big Island ranch.

BRONZE

**Paul Lasley and Elizabeth Harryman, TravelSmart columns in Westways**

Clean writing meets fresh topics in this column that’s been running for 23 years. One deals with new social justice tourism, such as the Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston, while another looks at the facts surround safety for solo travelers. The last entry is truly the last entry, a retrospective of 23 years writing TravelSmart.

**Category 6: Travel Industry**

## **GOLD**

### **Laurie Jo Miller Farr. A Wintry DMO Destination News Roundup. The Travel Vertical.**

Updated weekly, this offers travel agents and advisors a selection of current and upcoming events to share with clients. They range from the availability to book a tea or dinner inside a life-size gingerbread house to a waterfall light show 1,100 feet underground to Santa on the beach. These are curated by an experienced travel writer from across the country, with a diversity of styles, locations and activities. This useful roundup service also includes videos highlight some of the attractions.

## **SILVER**

### **Mindy Poder, New Travel Advisor Businesses That Will Help the Industry Build Back Better, TravelAge West.**

When life hands you a fistful of lemons, why not restructure you time and effort to squeeze out some lemonade? These examples demonstrate how four travel professionals decided to use downtime during the Pandemic to retool and reinvent the work of advisors with new tools, websites and podcasts that other professionals can emulate to maintain or grow their business in difficult times.

## **BRONZE**

### **Christine Loomis. Secrets of Sustainability, Corporate & Incentive Travel.**

Industry sustainability is a daunting undertaking, but as with most complex challenges, this challenge can be met by breaking it into smaller parts. Advice here includes start early with organization, venue, vendors and suppliers. Work to minimize excessive use of harsh chemicals. Maximize recyclables, reusables, donations. Use eco-friendly materials such as bamboo lanyards, options from vinyl signs and biodegradable utensils to advising travelers to bring their own water or coffee bottle. The author provides a useful gameplan and approach to a wide-ranging challenge.

## **Category 7: Website**

## **GOLD**

### **Karilyn Owen. No Back Home/[nobackhome.com](http://nobackhome.com).**

This is what a travel website should look like, be and do, or any website really. The attractive design doesn't end with the Home page, but carries through with an open, airy, very-easy-to-navigate format with plenty of beautiful images that say "travel is to be enjoyed." The Home page includes a newsletter signup invitation without being an annoying popup, as well as the requisite links to social media. From that top page readers can mouse over a world map to select content from various countries and regions ... or select one of the promos across the top of the page, such as Dream Destinations or Guide to LegoLand. For those who prefer it, there's also a grid of boxes that readers can select for a global region or country. Reader engagement/feedback is invited again in a comment box at the bottom of the About page. And this is all enhanced by a writing style that's upbeat, casual and conversational, not just the facts nor lecturing nor talking down to readers.

## **SILVER**

### **Maria Haase. San Diego Explorer/[sandiegoexplorer.com](http://sandiegoexplorer.com)**

A good travel website need not always provide a global catalogue. All things local can be as inviting, interesting and attractive as promoting global wanderlust. San Diego is more than beaches, a world-class zoo and a massive Navy base. This website is everything San Diego, a deep dive into the varied neighborhoods as well as Things to Do, Top Attractions, Tips and the eBook restaurant guide. A Beautiful slide show rotator highlights topics/categories: Coronado hotels, beautiful La Jolla, pet-friendly hotels, best beach resorts and more.

## **BRONZE**

**Rina Nehdar. L.A. Family/lafamilytravel.com.**

The website name refers to the author and her family, not to the scope of her work. And that work is an open, airy, light and breezy presentation of destination pieces, reviews, tips and glorious image from around the world, from California (not just L.A.) to Cancun, Europe, Florida and more. There's a strong focus on family adventures, traveling with teens, mommy getaways and weekend getaways. The first view of the website pulls the reader in with an action video of families enjoying travel, instead of the usual slide-show rotator.

**Category 8: Adventure/health travel**

## **GOLD**

**Juliana Broste, Mexico Surf Retreat with TravelingJules, YouTube**

This buoyant video about a girl's surfing trip has you cheering along with our intrepid traveler. A great "show me" example of travel journalism.

## **SILVER**

**Debra Bokur, Sweet Harmony: Recharge your mana energy and find balance on legendary Lana'i Island, Global Traveler magazine**

Beyond the lush resort and pineapple fields, we find the history and adventure of a least-traveled island. The writer uses her vast knowledge of the island to take you on a healing journey that evokes the mythical legacy of Lana'i.

## **BRONZE**

**James Murren, The Art of the Mapmaker, Mountain Flyer magazine**

In a world where GPS only gives you with the next turn, this story makes you reconsider the true adventure of charting your own course — with a map. The writer journeys to Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania to meet a mapmaker with deep insight into how following a contour map will push you toward your ultimate journey.

**Category 9: Family/senior/special needs travel**

## **GOLD**

**Kari Bodnarchuk, A Family Getaway to Banff, That’s Anything but Rocky, Boston Globe**<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Thrilling family adventure that has you riding along with dogsleds in the Canadian Rockies. A fast-paced piece filled with travel ideas as well as typical mom angst.

**SILVER**

**Jill K. Robinson, A Tent of One’s Own, San Francisco Chronicle**

In closed-down California, a family learns to create a little space — even it’s a tent in the backyard, for an 11-year-old suffering the confines of the pandemic. A reflection of finding home when the road isn’t an option.

**BRONZE**

**Rich Grant, Mount Airy, North Carolina: Andy’s Home Town, GoNomad.com**

Senior travelers flock to the faux Mayberry of Mount Airy, NC, recalling the vintage TV show and reveling in the re-creation of the shows characters. This light-hearted tale takes you back to Aunt Bea’s kitchen and Andy, Opie and Barney.

**Category 10: Food and Beverage**

**GOLD**

**Brad A. Johnson, The Disappearing Art & Rhythm of Chinese Tea in Hong Kong, Brad A Johnson Food+Travel blog**

An evocative memoir taking you back to the warren-like streets of Hong Kong to revisit the art of tea preparation. This word poem plays cat and mouse with your expectations, creating anticipation until that first aromatic sip.

**SILVER**

**Jill K. Robinson, Gordan Ramsay: The Path to Uncharted, National Geographic**

The author exposes the confident chef at his most vulnerable, subject to the whims of nature while cooking Maori-style in New Zealand. This straightforward story lets the subject shine through with just enough color to give you a sense of place.

**BRONZE**

**David Swanson, The Geography of Barbecue Comes Together in Kansas City, ReceEe**

You can smell the hickory smoke and taste the sweet twang of sauce in this outsider’s view of barbecue and its regional differences. All hail the Kansas City barbecue scene, though, as a town that took all those regional quirks and created the best smoked meat on the planet.

**Category 11: Photo-Illustrated Article**

**GOLD**

**Jan Butchofsky, Ceremony *Coming of Age: Mescalero Apache Maiden*, AG23 magazine**

An amazing photo story about a 12-day coming of age ceremony for a Mescalero Apache girl. The photographs are sensitive, documentary quality and convey understanding beyond words.

**SILVER**

**Eric Stoen, The Brilliance of Sunrise, Travel Babbo**

We all see sunset photos, but this is a different take. In this tribute to another “golden hour,” the photographer presents stirring and colorful mix of iconic shots of sunrise in various locales.

**BRONZE**

**Brad A Johnson, Telluride in Black and White, Food & Travel, bradjohnson.net**

A fresh view of the famed Colorado ski resort, captured in black and white.

**Category 12: Non-Traditional**

**GOLD**

**Juliana Broste: Random Milwaukee video, TravelingJules on YouTube**

A delightful look at lesser-known spots in Milwaukee, including a bobblehead museum and the nation’s oldest bowling alley. Jules adds a quirky touch to this fast-paced and well-edited video.

**SILVER**

**David DeVoss, Faces of Afghanistan, EastWest News Service**

A revealing and honest look at the various faces of Afghanistan, a country where photography requires tact, patience and cultural sensitivity.

**BRONZE**

**Nancy Hellmrich, Travel Horoscopes, Ensemble Vacations magazine**

Short, bright pops of prose that stay true to the astrological forecast but add in ideas for sign-compatible trips. A very fun read.