



How to Build a Bucket List for Your Life



Dawn at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Courtesy Indagare

Although it can sometimes seem as if our actions drive our life stories, really it is the other way around: the stories we tell ourselves about who we are, where we're going and what we want out of life are what ultimately shape our actions. When it comes to travel, Covid has made this idea even more true and more relevant. Like most travelers, I have always been a seeker and find that the mere act of casting my thoughts to a distant destination changes my inner narrative and, from there, my mindset and my actions. Our stories create our lives. For that reason, I curate and tend to my travel wish list like a garden, always adding and adjusting. And even though some destinations are still off-limits, as we move into this new phase of Covid, with post-vaccine travel in the offing, I find myself thinking about them with an even greater sense of longing and urgency.

At Indagare, we specialize in creating travel bucket lists and in turning their dreams and mapping visions into practical, long-term plans. Some of our members like to spread their bucket lists over years. We help them with information about optimum times to travel and how early they need to book (a year in advance for safari, for

example). Others like to cover a lot of ground at once, with, say, a trip around Southeast Asia. For some families, we have created round-the-world journeys and sabbaticals, with dozens of stops over several months. After all, there is no better way to educate our children and ourselves than with exposure to other cultures through personal interactions during a cooking class, a bike ride or a school visit.

Contact [Indagare](#) or your Trip Designer to help map your travel future and customize your bucket list for when you're ready to head out into the world again, or to learn more about health-safety considerations, including the destinations that are open to travel and the latest hotel protocols.

There is an art to creating a great bucket list. Like a great meal, it has rhythm and pacing, variety and balance: country and city, yin and yang. In the early days of Indagare, one of our members explained his preferences to me by saying: "I love works of God, but my wife prefers works of man." This has since become a popular expression at Indagare for distinguishing two types of experiences. Here are our favorite bucket list trip ideas, from hiking experiences in the wilderness or guided tours through the world's greatest museums to foraging for truffles and sunbathing on the finest white sands. We have broken them down into categories, themes, destinations and distinct passion points our members so often look for—and we truly hope they will inspire your future trips. We're here to help you craft the bucket list itineraries you envision for your lifetime of travels as safely and responsibly as possible in the months and years ahead.

Related: [Rediscovering the Meaning of Travel During Covid](#)

Bucket List Trip Ideas for Stupendous Natural Beauty



Torres Del Paine, in Chilean Patagonia. Courtesy Indagare

- South Island of [New Zealand](#)
- U.S. National Parks: [Zion](#), [Bryce Canyon](#) and more
- Antarctica
- [Italian Dolomites](#)
- Serengeti Plains
- The salt flats of Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni
- [Alaska](#)
- [South African Winelands](#)
- [Namibia](#)
- The Atacama Desert and Torres del Paine, Patagonia in [Chile](#)
- Turkey's Cappadocia
- [Norway](#), [Sweden](#) or Finland
- [Iceland](#)
- [The Great Barrier Reef](#)

Related: [Melissa's Spotlight: A Family Trip in the American West During Covid](#)

Bucket List Trips for Culture and History



A monk in Cambodia. Courtesy Indagare

- [Machu Picchu](#) in [Peru](#)
- Petra in [Jordan](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- Maya ruins in [Belize](#)
- Taj Mahal in [India](#)
- Angkor Wat in [Cambodia](#)
- The Sistine Chapel in [Rome](#)
- [Athens](#) and ruins throughout [Greece](#)
- Learning calligraphy in [Kyoto](#)
- Easter Island in [Chile](#)
- Monreale Cathedral in [Sicily](#)

Related: [Indagare's Guide to Traveling Safely and Responsibly During Covid](#)

Bucket List A+ Destinations



Zebras in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. Courtesy Indagare

One of the biggest benefits of Indagare membership is that you are part of a community of sophisticated travelers seeking authentic and transformative experiences. Because we have been arranging thousands of trips annually for more than a decade, we can discern which guides, hotels, excursions and meals consistently enchant our members. Among those, a few are so exceptional that they can be counted on to please everyone every time. I call these the A+ Experiences, and a selection of them serves as an excellent framework for any bucket list.

- [New Zealand](#)
- [Peru](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [Tanzania](#)
- [Patagonia](#)

Bucket List Indagare Adored Hotels



Kasbah Tamadot in Morocco. Courtesy Indagare

These properties are worth the trip for their exceptional service, setting and food, which all combine to enhance their magic.

- [Capella Ubud](#) in Bali
- Palace hotels of Rajasthan, [India](#)
- [Laucala](#) in Fiji
- Liz Biden's South African properties: [Royal Malewane](#), [The Silo](#), [Birkenhead House](#) and [La Residence](#)
- [Ranch at Rock Creek](#) in Montana
- [Estancia Vik](#) in Uruguay
- [Kasbah Tamadot](#) in the Atlas Mountains of [Morocco](#)
- [Bisate Lodge](#) in Rwanda
- [Ballyfin](#) in [Ireland](#)

Keep an eye out for [The Indagare Index](#), our curated list of the top properties in the world, arriving in member mailboxes (and for those who pre-ordered) soon for more inspiration!

Related: [Bucket List Hotels: 52 of the Most Luxurious Hotels in the World](#)

Bucket List Guide Experiences



Nefertari Temple in Abu Simbel, Egypt. Courtesy Indagare

Because connecting with people is one of the most powerful ways to engage with a destination, this select group also includes our favorite guides. Here are a few of the exceptional guide experiences we can help arrange.

- A Maasai warrior who travels with our members through the Serengeti
- A hilarious and charming Gaudí expert in [Barcelona](#)
- An architect in [Paris](#) who gives engaging and scholarly tours of the [Louvre](#)
- An insider in [Tokyo](#) with amazing local connections
- An expert Egyptologist at Luxor and Karnak in [Egypt](#)
- An adventurer in [Beijing](#) who accompanies hikers on deserted stretches of the [Great Wall](#)

Bucket List Experiences By Theme



Helicopter tour in New Zealand. Courtesy Indagare

It can also be fun to flesh out this framework with experiences organized around a theme. Such a list might include:

Over and Under the Earth

- Descending into a volcano in [Iceland](#)
- Scuba diving in the Blue Hole of [Belize](#) or Palau
- Climbing [Mount Kilimanjaro](#)
- Snorkeling at the [Brando](#) in [Bora Bora](#)
- Sailing along the west coast of [Corsica](#)
- Flying by helicopter over the fjord lands of Milford Sound in [New Zealand](#)

Unforgettable Wildlife Interactions

- [African Safari](#)
- Swimming with sea lions in the [Galápagos](#)
- Walking with a cheetah in [Zimbabwe](#)
- Washing an elephant in Asia's Golden Triangle
- Painting an elephant in [Jaipur](#)
- Hiking amid silverback gorillas in [Rwanda](#)

- Tracking kiwi chicks in New Zealand

Spirituality-based Trips

- Himalayas
- [Jerusalem](#)
- [Mii amo](#) in Sedona, Arizona
- [Uma Paro](#) in [Bhutan](#)

Food-focused Trips

Because we are foodies at Indagare, bucket list trips always involve wonderful meals, some as simple as *uni* and *toro* before dawn at the fish market in Tokyo or tapas at a tiny counter in San Sebastián, [Spain](#). A few of our favorites include:

- Breakfast by the pool at [La Mamounia](#) in [Marrakech](#), accompanied by bird song, with the mist rising over the Atlas Mountains
- A rosé-filled, two-hour lunch at [Conca del Sogno](#) on the [Amalfi Coast](#) or at [Garzón](#) in Uruguay
- A multi-course tasting menu full of unfamiliar flavor combinations at [Alinea](#) in Chicago
- Grilled fresh fish at a little seaside spot reachable only by boat in [Croatia](#) or [Mallorca](#)
- A truffle hunt, led by an experienced *trifulau* (truffle hunter) and his dog, in [Tuscany](#)
- Dinner lit by candles and scented with rose petals on the rooftop of the [Taj Lake Palace](#) in [Udaipur](#)

We encourage you to tap Indagare's Trip Designers to guide you to extraordinary experiences and help you envision your own personalized bucket list.

Related: [Where to Go in 2021](#)

Contact Indagare or your Trip Designer to help map your travel future and customize your bucket list for when you're ready to head out into the world again, or to learn more about coronavirus travel safety, including the destinations that are open to travel and new COVID-19 hotel policies.

