

The itinerary

Compiled by Sandy Guerra-Cline



CopperWynd is near Scottsdale, Ariz.
CopperWynd Resort and Club

Baby, it's peaceful and warm inside

CopperWynd Resort and Club in Fountain Hills, Ariz., just outside Scottsdale, offers the perfect pampering, relaxing escape for expecting moms. The luxurious resort, known for its breathtaking views of the mountains, has a "Baby-moon" package that includes a deluxe guest room with gas fireplace, a 50-minute maternity massage for the mom-to-be, a breakfast basket for two, a \$100 food and beverage credit at the resort's Alchemy Restaurant, chocolate-covered strawberries and sparkling cider, and a late check-out. Rates start at \$399 per night, plus tax, Tuesdays-Saturdays. The offer is valid through Jan. 31. 877-707-7760; copperwynd.com.

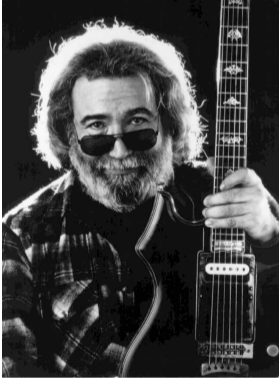
Fine-dining restaurants for foodies abroad

Osteria Francescana, a modern establishment with just 12 tables in the northern Italian city of Modena, was named Europe's finest recently in the Daily Meal website's inaugural list of the 101 Best Restaurants in Europe. It was followed by Arzak, San Sebastian, Spain, in second; Noma, Copenhagen, third; Alain Ducasse at the Dorchester, London, fourth; Guy Savoy, Paris, fifth; then Aqua (Wolfsburg, Germany), Varvay (Moscow), Hof Van Cleve (Kruishoutem, Belgium), L'Arpege (Paris) and JB (Ljubljana, Slovenia). The seven-month compilation involved the website's editors and more than 200 food writers and bloggers. Panelists voted in two categories: cuisine and style/decor/service.

— Bloomberg News

For those about to rock Cleveland

The Grateful Dead exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland has gotten a reprieve. The exhibit opened in April and was due to wrap up by year's end. Now the rock hall says "The Long, Strange Trip" has been extended through March 24.



The late Jerry Garcia AP

The exhibit features manuscripts, handwritten notes, five Jerry Garcia guitars, a custom-painted drum kit and promoter Bill Graham's "Father Time" robe. The Grateful Dead were at the epicenter of the sweeping culture of San Francisco in the 1960s.

— The Associated Press

Fun fact



Hike near Broken Bow Lake in Oklahoma.
Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department

New Year's on the trail

If hiking's more your thing than partying is, you might want to see 2013 arrive in a state park. On Jan. 1, free guided hikes will be offered in Texas, including at Bonham State Park, about an hour northeast of Dallas; Ray Roberts Lake State Park in Pilot Point; and Lake Whitney State Park, west of Hillsboro. See the complete list at bit.ly/WIGnln. Oklahoma will participate as well, at its state parks. Check out those locations at travelok.com/State_Parks.

— McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

Destinations



Mount Makana was featured as Bali Hai in the 1958 film adaptation of *South Pacific*.

Hawaii Tourism Authority/Tor Johnson

Camera-ready

By land and by sea, the Hawaiian island of Kauai — made famous as a lush backdrop for film shoots — delivers natural beauty on all sides

By Debbra Brouillette
Special to Star-Telegram

Securely strapped into my seat, I'm about to experience one of the most exhilarating hours of my life. The doors of the four-passenger Hughes 500 helicopter have been removed to maximize photo opportunities. "No glare from the win-

dows" is the main benefit for photographers, according to Casey Riemer, manager of Jack Harter Helicopters, in operation on the Hawaiian island of Kauai for decades.

Any apprehension I have about going up, up and away on my first helicopter ride, not to mention one with no doors,

disappears in minutes as we climb higher and higher, leaving the Lihue Heliport behind. We soar above sites that my husband and I saw by land and sea earlier in the week, now viewing them from a whole new perspective, and many areas we couldn't see any other way than from above, since less

than a third of Kauai's approximately 550 square miles are accessible by land.

We had sailed up the Na Pali Coast by catamaran, oohing and ahing over its dramatic volcanic peaks and hidden beaches; we had stood awestruck, overlooking the expanse of Waimea Canyon, called the Grand Canyon of the Pacific, but getting a bird's-eye view from the air was, we agreed, an experience not to be missed. How else would we be able to fly into the ancient volcanic crater of Mount Waialeale, documented as one of the wettest spots on Earth, or fly over waterfalls used in the filming of *Jurassic Park* (Manawaiopuna Falls) and *Fantasy Island* (Wailua Falls)?

Popular film locale

Ever since Universal Pictures chose Kauai as the setting for 1934's *White Heat*, this fourth largest and most ancient of the Hawaiian islands has become one of the world's most popular tropical locations for filmmakers. Over the years, it has served as a location for more than 70 feature films and television shows, standing in for locales around the world, and

More on KAUAI, 12E



These jagged cliffs give the Na Pali Coast its name.

Special to the Star-Telegram/Debbra Dunning Brouillette

Where will travel trends take you in 2013?

Hot spots include such burgeoning destinations as Marseille and Myanmar.

By Beth J. Harpaz
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK — Myanmar, Marseille, New Zealand and Gettysburg are all on the travel radar for 2013 thanks to new tours, events and anniversaries. But the best pitch for travel in the new year might just be coming from Ireland, which is running ads "calling all Flynns, O'Malleys and Schweizenbergs" to the Emerald Isle for a unique grassroots homecoming called The Gathering.

Here are details on these and other places, events and travel trends for 2013.

International destinations Ireland's The Gathering

"It's a citizen-led initiative to attract people who are Irish-born, Irish-bred or Irish in spirit to join us in 2013," said Bernard McMullan of Tourism Ireland. "It's almost become a competition where one county, town or village tries to have as

quirky a gathering as the next."

More than 2,000 events are already planned, including gatherings for redheads and left-handers as well as reunions based on family names and clans.

The U.S. Census Bureau says 34.7 million Americans claim Irish ancestry, and Arabella Bowen, executive editorial director of Fodor's Travel, is one of them. Even President Barack Obama has an Irish ancestor in the family tree. "There are Irish people all over the world," said Bowen. "It will be great fun being able to connect with others going back for this event. It's like an entire year of St. Patrick's Day parties."

Myanmar

President Obama's historic visit to Myanmar — the first ever by a sitting U.S. president — is adding to already heated-up interest in the country, which has only fully opened to tourism in the past few years. Fodor's Bowen says it's especially attractive to people who are already well-



President Barack Obama's visit to Myanmar in November helped draw attention to this destination "off the beaten path."

AP

traveled and seeking that next unknown destination.

Many tour companies are adding Myanmar trips to meet demand, and the U.S. Tour Operators Association's active members named Myanmar No. 1 on a list of "off-the-beaten path" countries they foresee becoming popular in 2013.

New Zealand

New Zealand received a huge boost in tourism from

fans of the "Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy, and the recent release of *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is focusing attention on the destination once again. All four of the movies were filmed in New Zealand.

Marseille

This French port city is one of two European capitals of culture in 2013, along with the

More on TRAVEL, 14E



Waimea Canyon is often called the Grand Canyon of the Pacific, for obvious reasons. Special to the Star-Telegram/Debbra Dunning Brouillette



For surfers, Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort fronts Poipu Beach. Special to the Star-Telegram/Debbra Dunning Brouillette

Kauai

Continued from 11E

even those not of this world.

The list includes such blockbusters as *The Descendants*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, *Avatar*, *Jurassic Park*, *King Kong* and *South Pacific*, as well as the shows *Fantasy Island* and *Gilligan's Island*.

Kauai from the sea

A few days before our helicopter tour, we sailed up the Na Pali Coast (*na pali*, “the cliffs” in Hawaiian) with Capt. Andy’s Sailing Adventures aboard its 65-foot catamaran, the Southern Star. Our six-hour cruise, which departed from Port Allen on Kauai’s western shore, included continental breakfast, snorkeling, lunch and drinks. Like eager extras scrambling for screen time, pods of Hawaiian spinner dolphins followed

us up the coast, catching the bow wave of the boat. They are almost guaranteed to make an appearance, according to the crew, “no extra charge.”

The star attractions are the spectacular jagged cliffs lining the coast, volcanic in origin, millions of years in the making. We passed sandy beaches tucked between the folds of the cliffs and sea caves eroded by the elements. Many are lava tubes, hollowed out over millions of years. Whale-watching season runs from December through April, when humpbacks arrive from Alaska to make Kauai their winter home.

Kauai by land

The island is easy to navigate by car, and since there is only one main road joining the north, south, east and west shores, it’s hard to get lost. Bus tours are available for those who want to leave the driving to someone else and learn from the knowledgeable tour guides. Waimea Canyon was at the top of our list of land-based excursions, and we decided to let Polynesian Adventure Tours take us there.

Waimea Canyon: Grand Canyon of the Pacific

As we headed up the mountainous road to the canyon, our driver, Juan, kept us entertained with stories of Hawaiian history interwoven with folklore involving its gods and goddesses, which many islanders still accept as more than myth. Visitors are urged, for example, not to leave the island with a rock of volcanic origin, lest the goddess Pele curse them with bad luck. The Waimea Canyon is more colorful than Arizona’s Grand Canyon since there are patches of green, thanks to runoff from Mount Waialeale at

the island’s center. At more than 10 miles long, a mile wide and 3,600 feet deep, it is smaller than the Grand Canyon, but is an awe-inspiring sight.

National Tropical Botanical Garden

Kauai is home to three of the five national tropical botanical gardens. (The others are on Maui and in southern Florida.) Our tour of two of the gardens on the south shore began with a stroll through Allerton Garden’s examples of cultivated beauty, where plants and trees have been combined with sculptures and water features to create outdoor rooms. A bit farther along the paths, we encountered massive Moreton Bay Fig trees, which were used in *Jurassic Park* in a memorable scene where prehistoric dinosaur eggs are found among the roots. The adjacent McBryde Garden, with its waterfall and tropical fruit trees, boasts the largest collection of native Hawaiian plants found outside their natural setting. The third botanical garden, Lihouli, is on Kauai’s north shore.

Driving to the “end of the road”

On our next-to-last day, an ocean swell was forecast to bring high waves to the island — exciting news for surfers but a bit disappointing to us, as it cancelled our planned diving excursion. Locals encouraged us to drive north to the “end of the road,” up Highway 56. North of Princeville, the road becomes Highway 560 and mile markers start at zero. From there, it’s a laid-back 10-mile drive, one that can take hours when approached with meandering in mind.

We crossed the historic one-lane bridge into Hanalei Town, where we



The Queen Emma giant spider lily is one of many examples of the Garden Island’s tropical flora. Special to the Star-Telegram/Debbra Dunning Brouillette

stopped to wander through its boutiques and art galleries before taking a peek into Tahiti Nui restaurant, where George Clooney and Beau Bridges filmed a scene in *The Descendants*. A short distance from town, we passed Lumahai Beach, a movie location for 1957’s *South Pacific*, before reaching the end of the road at mile marker 10, which dead-ends into Ke’e Beach. Its protected lagoon is a popular swimming and snorkeling spot, while hikers start their exploration of the Na Pali Coast here on the coastal trails.

Haven for celebrities

The less-populated north side of Kauai is a popular destination for celebrities like Pierce Brosnan, Ben Stiller, Bette Midler, Bruce Willis, Beau Bridges and Sylvester Stal-

If you go

Find out where to stay, eat and play on Kauai **13E**

lone, all of whom own homes there, as well as famous vacationers, including Julia Roberts, Reese Witherspoon, Matt Damon and Jennifer Aniston, who can mingle with locals without a paparazzo in sight.

Just as moviemakers keep returning to this versatile island paradise, so do lots of regular folks. While we were first-time visitors, more than 60 percent of those arriving on the island are repeat guests. And it’s easy to see why. Like a giant movie set, Kauai is ready to provide the perfect backdrop for romance, adventure or whatever you write into your own script.

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The pool at the Kauai Marriott Resort is the largest single-level pool in Hawaii.
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If you go

Since Kauai caters to all types of visitors, my husband and I decided to experience four very different accommodation choices during our time there, covering different parts of the island.

We first checked into **Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort** (www.koakea.com, 808-828-8888), an intimate boutique hotel (121 rooms) on the island's southern shore at Poipu Beach. It took the top spot as "Most Romantic Hotel in the United States" in TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Awards 2012 (No. 8 world-wide) and was ranked the No. 2 resort in Hawaii in *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards this year. Besides Ko'a Kea's romantic beachfront setting, its highly regarded **Red Salt** restaurant is worth a visit for anyone staying on the south end of the island. Rates start at \$250.

While staying at Ko'a Kea, we spent an idyllic day at **Kukuiula** (kukuiula.com), a 1,000-acre upscale oceanview real estate development and community, also on the south shore near Poipu Beach. After touring one of its custom, completely furnished luxury homes with separate guesthouse (starting at \$2.5 million); walking through its organic farm, including a 20-acre stocked lake; and enjoying a farm-to-table lunch in **The Clubhouse**, we spent a sumptuous afternoon in its

spa, overlooking the Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course with views of the Pacific Ocean beyond. Three-bedroom Club Cottages are available at a daily rate of \$1,000-\$1,500 (www.parrish-kauai.com/kukuiula/club-cottages, 800-325-5701).

Kauai Marriott Resort (www.marriotthawaii.com, 808-245-5050) was our next stop. The resort, with its 345 guest rooms and 11 suites, fronts Kalapaki Beach on Kauai's southeastern shore, but the main attraction is the 26,000-square-foot pool, the largest single-level pool in Hawaii. Beautifully designed and landscaped throughout, there is a lot to enjoy here, including a weekly luau, six restaurants and close proximity to the airport, shopping and **Kauai Lagoons Golf Club**. Rates start at \$229.

Next, we left the "sunny South coast" to spend time on the northern coast, less than an hour's drive away. Our destination was the **St. Regis Princeville Resort** (www.stregisprinceville.com, 808-826-9644), overlooking Hanalei Bay. Situated in a postcard-perfect setting in the 9,000-acre resort community of Princeville, the St. Regis, the most upscale property on the island, was recognized as a best hotel for romance by TripAdvisor, and placed No. 5 on its Travelers' Choice 2012 list. It offers 251 guest rooms

and 51 suites, staggeringly beautiful mountain views, golf, a spa, and upscale amenities, including personal butler service. The St. Regis opened in October 2009 after a multimillion-dollar renovation at the site of the former Princeville Resort. Even if you don't stay here, have a cocktail and enjoy the sunset from the lobby bar and terrace. Rates start at \$415.

Vacationers who enjoy having full kitchen facilities can stay nearby at the **West-in Princeville Ocean Resort Villas** (www.westin-princeville.com, 808-827-8700), which offers studios and one-bedroom villas (173 of each). Rates start at \$420.

On our last night, we traveled south, checking into a spacious one-bedroom villa complete with full kitchen and laundry facilities at **Koloa Landing at Poipu Beach**, a Wyndham Grand Resort (www.koloalandingresort.com, 888-317-0205). It was one of 85 spacious one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom villas. Ideal for families or extended stays. Rates start at \$279.

Getting there
■ American Airlines offers daily direct flights from DFW to Kauai. Other airlines offer flights with connections.
■ Kauai's official tourism site: www.gohawaii.com

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NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS around the world

Ever wonder from where some of the New Year's traditions came?

Resolutions: It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions, and people all over the world have been breaking them ever since! The early Christians believed the first day of the new year should be spent reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the new year.

Fireworks: Noisemaking and fireworks on New Year's eve is believed to have originated in ancient times, when noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck. The Chinese are credited with inventing fireworks and use them to spectacular effect in their New Year's celebrations.

Other old customs around the world:

British New Year

In Britain the custom of first footing is practiced. The first male visitor to the house after midnight is usually supposed to bring good luck. Usually they bring a gift like money, bread, or coal, which is done to ensure the family, will have plenty of these things all the year to come. The first person must not be blond, red-haired or women as these people are supposedly bad luck.

The Druids gave a gift of twigs from the mistletoe, as this was a plant that was sacred to them as a magic source of fertility. It would bestow on the recipient a fruitful year in the number of children, as well as the amount of cattle and the amount of crop.

The Netherlands

The Dutch burn bonfires of Christmas trees on the street and launch fireworks. The fires are meant to purge the old and welcome the new.

Greece

In Greece, New Year's day is also the Festival of St. Basil, one of the founders of the Greek Orthodox Church. One of the traditional foods served is Vassilopitta, or St Basil's cake. A silver or gold coin is baked inside the cake. Whoever finds the coin in their piece of cake will be especially lucky during the coming year.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year "Yuan Tan" takes place between January 21 and February 20.

The exact date is fixed by the lunar calendar, in which a new moon marks the beginning of each new month. For many families, it is a time for feasting, visiting relatives and friends, but in the city a spectacular procession takes place. The celebrations are based on bringing luck, health, happiness, and wealth till the next year. They clean their houses to rid them of last's year's bad luck before the celebrations begin. There are street parades where thousands of people line the streets to watch the procession of floats in the New Year parade. Dancing dragons and lions weave their way through the crowded streets. The dragon is associated with longevity and wealth. Inside the costumes are 50 dancers, twisting and turning the dragon's long silk body and blinking eyes.

Jewish New Year

The Jewish New Year Festival is called **Rosh Hashanah**. The date varies each year, as they have their own calendar which is lunisolar in nature. The New Year is on the first two days of the seventh month, this was done so that the farmers could visit Jerusalem before the winter rains came. The first ten days of this month are the most holiest.

Tradition speaks of a symbolic book in heaven which was said to have records of those who did good and bad deeds and on **Rosh Hashanah** all people must account to God for their behavior during the past year. However, all people are given ten days before the **New Year** and the **Day of Atonement** or **Yom Kippur** to show they are sorry for any wrong doings they may have done. They undo all wrong doings by performing good deeds and by thinking about how to live a better life in the future. If they are sincere, God was suppose to forgive them and on **Yom Kippur** he sets down and foretells each person's fate for the next year in the book. He will write them down for a good year.

The New Years Eve dinner has, festival candles which are lit and the table is decorated with fresh fruit of the season, especially grapes. Other foods that are served are bread known as **Challah**, honey cake and honey jar as well as fresh fruits. Fish is also served as it symbolizes fruitfulness and plenty.

South America

In South America **Ano Viejo** the New Year festival is celebrated by creating a fake person or dummy. The scarecrow looking person is completely dressed and stuffed with old newspapers and firecrackers.

The dummy is usually placed outside the home. The scarecrow represents something that has happened during the last year. At midnight each family lights the dummy on fire. As the dummy goes up in smoke the firecrackers also go off to add to the festivities. The old year is forgotten and the New Year begins.

United States

Probably the most famous tradition in the United States is the dropping of the **New Year ball in Times Square**, New York City, at 11:59 P.M. Thousands gather to watch the ball make its one-minute descent, arriving exactly at midnight. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood; the current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is six feet in diameter!

A traditional southern New Year's dish is **Hoppin' John**—black eyed peas and ham hocks. An old saying goes, "Eat peas on New Year's day to have plenty of everything the rest of the year."

The most commonly sung song on New Year's Eve, "**Auld Lang Syne**" is an old Scottish song first published by the poet Robert Burns in 1796. He published it (and made some refinements to the lyrics) after he heard it sung by an old man from the Ayrshire area of Scotland, Burns' homeland. Auld Lang Syne is one of the most popular songs to which nobody seems to know the correct words! Auld Lang Syne literally translates as "old long since" and means "times gone by." The song ask whether old friends and times will be forgotten and promises to remember people of the past with fondness. The lesser known Scottish verses continue this there in true Scottish language. However, it was band leader, Guy Lombardo, who popularized the song and turned it into a New Year's Eve tradition when he heard it sung by Scottish immigrants. He played the song at midnight at a New Year's Eve party at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City in 1929 and a tradition was born. After that, Lombardo's version of the song was played every New Year's Eve until 1976 at the Waldorf Astoria, first broadcast on radio, then on television. Now, the New Year doesn't seem to arrive without this tradition.

Don't know the words? Here are the correct ones! (By the way if you want to know the other 4 true Scottish verses – just send them your e-mail to **Info@PaulsCruises.com** and they'll send you the words.)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne.

CHORUS:
For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For auld lang syne!

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CHINESE NEW YEAR