

elite traveler

RESPONSIBLE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

FALL 2021

The Watch Issue

BEHOLD THE MOST IMPRESSIVE
FEATS OF HOROLOGICAL
MASTERY FROM HIGH-JEWELRY
WATCHES TO SPECTACULAR
INNOVATIONS

**EXPLORE
ARIZONA**

Road trip in Arizona

Arizona's bounty of rust-colored canyons and saguaro-laden vistas easily enchant, but it's the unexpected that excites. Home to 22 sovereign American Indian communities, alpine forests and a robust collection of artists' colonies, the Grand Canyon State proffers an abundance of eclectic exploration possibilities.

While pecans and citrus fruits flourish in the heat, it's best to avoid the jaw-droppingly hot summers and instead opt for the shoulder seasons. (The delectable prickly pear margaritas, one of the state's beloved delicacies, are

available year-round.) It's possible to find both chilly mornings and temperate afternoons thanks to the astounding variations in elevation — from some 12,600 ft at the summit of Humphreys Peak to 70 ft above sea level on the Colorado River — throughout the state.

The ideal vehicle for this Arizona journey is the Bentley Continental GT V8 Convertible; drop the top and prepare for an unhurried adventure beginning in the northernmost part of the state at Lake Powell.

by Alexandra Cheney

LAKE POWELL

A man-made reservoir on the Colorado River, Lake Powell snakes along the Arizona-Utah border. Dive into its 2,000 miles of shoreline, which include sandstone-sculpted slot canyons, towering rock formations like Gregory Butte, and one of the world's largest natural rock bridges, Rainbow Bridge. Rent a 2,400-sq-ft, four-bedroom, 75-ft Odyssey Houseboat with a waterslide, fireplace, full kitchen and rooftop hot tub from **Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas (lakepowell.com)**. It's possible to self-pilot the boat, or hire a captain for the duration of your stay.

An abundance of water toys, including ski tubes, wakeboards, water skis, kayaks and paddleboards, are available for rent. Depart from Wahweap Marina and glide through narrow red-rock passages, anchoring on remote, soft-sand beaches. From there, it's a choose-your-own adventure.

Up the road, **Horseshoe Bend (nps.gov)** is a U-shaped incised meander of the Colorado River. An easy half-mile hike to the overlook boasts views of the 1,000-ft drop from rim to the shimmering ribbon of river.

GRAND CANYON

Head to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, a two-hour drive away, where pinyon and juniper trees survive with less than 15 inches of annual rainfall. Skip the area offerings and hire **Abercrombie & Kent (abercrombiekent.com)** to create a tailor-made, private journey where options abound. A preferred operator and local expert, Ben Murphy of **All-Star Grand Canyon Tours, Inc. (allstargrandcanyontours.com)**, guides rim-side walks, hikes for all levels and overnight glamping, and can arrange flightseeing or horseback rides.



Lake Powell, a man-made reservoir on the Colorado River, in all its glory

Photos: L'Auberge de Sedona



Snoopy Rock in Sedona, named for the Peanuts cartoon character

SEDONA

Continue south a few hours and arrive mid-morning at **L'Auberge de Sedona (lauberge.com)**, situated on the banks of Oak Creek. Reserve a creekside suite cottage with an outdoor cedar shower and private terrace nestled under a canopy of sycamore trees. Head into town for lunch at **ChocolaTree (chocolatree.com)**, a restaurant meets wellness center meets chocolate shop. Order a toppings-laden flatbread but save room for dessert. The not-to-be-missed truffles and raw chocolate cups are hand-harvested and then hand-ground at the outfit's cacao farms.

Take every opportunity to enjoy the Continental Convertible, especially while navigating 89A, the main road through town. Begin on the north end of town at **Clear Creek Trading Company (clearcreektrading.com)**, a Native American crafted, old-time trading post offering everything from Hopi wicker baskets to bone beaver skulls. Visit **Mystical Bazaar (mysticalbazaar.com)** for gemstone bracelets, talismans and amulets used for centuries to promote well-being and protection before driving on to Airport Mesa. Watch the sun set over basalt boulders and Sedona's famed red rocks.

Right and below
L'Auberge de Sedona is set in a romantic spot on the banks of Oak Creek

Wake before dawn to see the sun rise on Cathedral Rock Trail overlooking Red Rock State Park's meadows of manzanita, juniper, and desert rock cliffs. Unwind with a L'Aromatherapy massage at the resort before heading to Jerome, a former copper mining camp.

Carve through the canyons and across Verde Valley before rising onto Cleopatra Hill, a short but beautiful drive. Turn up the Naim for Bentley stereo and enjoy the crisp, high-altitude air (and the heated, duo-tone, hide-trimmed steering wheel). **Nellie Bly Kaleidoscopes and Art Glass (nellieblyscopes.com)** is the largest dealer of kaleidoscopes in the world, and boasts an impressive selection of handmade marbles and dichroic jewelry. Smokehouse enthusiasts should head to **Bobby D's BBQ (bobbydsbbqjerome.com)** for a lunch of thick-cut baby back ribs, the house specialty.

