



This pool, one of four at Bahia Vik, in José Ignacio, Uruguay, looks out over extensive sand dunes and the Atlantic Ocean.

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**LL OF US WHO LOVE** to travel know that there are few better ways to commemorate special occasions or moments in life. Whether we're celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and honeymoons, marking milestones like job changes, or even grieving, travel lets us step outside of our regular schedules and routines, connect with others (and ourselves), and be reminded of the joy that comes from opening our eyes to the world around us.

T+L's November issue has historically included a collection of "trips of a lifetime," those extra-special journeys you probably don't undertake more than once a year—or even once a decade—whose infrequency makes them all the more memorable. This time, we decided to arrange the list around particular life moments or stages when, we believe, travel ought to be top of mind. I recently designed such a trip myself, a destination birthday party for my husband, Charles, in Napa Valley. My account of that experience, along with 33 more great trips, begins on page 63.

The other features in this issue are no less inspiring: a romp across the island of Grenada, one of the Caribbean's best-kept secrets (page 104);



a look at Chicago, which has become a microcosm of America's challenges and its promise while remaining one of the country's absolute best cities to visit (page 114); and a wander through the Scottish Highlands, where wild nature and creature comforts go hand in hand (page 124). Thanks to this last piece, I'm planning to head to Scotland for my own birthday later this year—it's just my kind of "trip of a lifetime," and one that I'm pretty certain I'll remember for years to come.

*Nathan*

@nathanlump  
nathan@travelandleisure.com

**FROM MY TRAVELS**

After a business trip to Buenos Aires earlier this year, Charles and I hopped over to the Uruguayan beach town of José Ignacio. It wasn't the height of summer, but I love being by the sea in any season, and it was a blissfully quiet time to experience the charm of the place. We stayed at **Bahia Vik** ([vikretreats.com](http://vikretreats.com); doubles from \$850), a collection of sleek bungalows right on the sand owned by Alex and Carrie Vik, who have three properties in the area. (Estancia Vik, a traditional ranch a few minutes inland, was closed for the season when we were there, but we checked it out, and it's spectacular, perfect for those who enjoy a pastoral atmosphere and don't mind having to drive to the beach.) The Vik properties all have good, locally sourced food and a service style that is casual yet thoughtful, but what really sets them apart is the dramatic contemporary art that fills the public spaces and guest rooms. While in José Ignacio, don't miss **La Huella** ([paradorlahuella.com](http://paradorlahuella.com); entrées \$17–\$24) for fresh seafood on the beach, and be sure to take a drive up-country to chef Francis Mallmann's **Garzon** ([restaurantegarzon.com](http://restaurantegarzon.com); entrées \$47–\$71), a showcase for his celebrated wood-fired cooking.

FROM TOP: NATHAN LUMP; JEROME CORPUZ