

EUROPE'S MAGIC: SPAIN, SCOTLAND, PROVENCE

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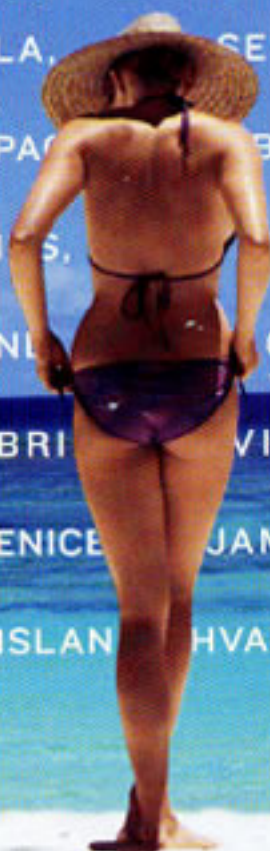
TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JULY 2010

50

Islands We Love

THE MALDIVES, CAPRI, ANGUILLA, SEYCHELLES, ST. BARTS, IBIZA,
OAHU, PUERTO RICO, BALI, GALÁPAGOS, BORA BORA, MOOREA, SARDINIA,
MAUI, SICILY, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, NANTUCKET, AMELIA ISLAND,
MALLORCA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, GRAND CAYMAN, TASMANIA,
PHUKET, BERMUDA, TRINIDAD, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, MARTHA'S
VINEYARD, KAUAI, BIG ISLAND, VENICE, JAMAICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
MYKONOS, SANTORINI, FRASER ISLAND, HVAR, KIAWAH ISLAND, AND MORE!



SPECIAL REPORT:
ASIA'S LAST SECRET PLACES

Why We Love GREEN Islands

BEAUTY Year after year, the islands that readers elect as most scenic have one thing in common: They're green. **Kauai** earned a 97.7 score for scenery, and it cannot be a coincidence that Mount Waialeale gets an average of 1.25 inches of rain *per day* (that'll turn anything green). Legendary for South Pacific pulchritude, **Bora Bora** (97.5) has an impenetrable green interior. Maine's **Mount Desert Island** (96.4) is mostly preserved as Acadia National Park. **Vancouver Island** (94.7) is gorgeous from every angle, with a 290-mile coastline, a rain forest interior—and palm trees, the poster girls of island greenery, growing right around latitude 50 degrees north. Scores in the 90s for scenery occur in just about every body of water, including the Great Lakes, where you'll find **Mackinac Island**. In Europe, there's **Capri** in the Tyrrhenian Sea, **Mykonos** and **Bozcaada** in the Aegean, and **Hvar** in the Adriatic. In the Atlantic, **Madeira** and **Cape Breton Island**. In the Indian Ocean, the **Seychelles**, the **Maldives**, and **Bali**. In the Caribbean, **St. John**. And of course there's more in the pulchritudinous Pacific: **Easter Island**, the **Galápagos**, and most remote of all, Alaska's 300 **Aleutians**. **EXPLORING** The standout is the **Galápagos**, the only archipelago in the world to score above 90.0 for activities. But the allure of rare species like the blue-footed booby and giant tortoises signals a wider interest in communing with animals living on (or near) islands—elephant trekking in



CAPRI

Tiny Capri may have the world's highest concentration of Gold List hotels per square mile: Grand Hotel Quisisana, Hotel Caesar Augustus, Hotel La Scalinitella, and Hotel Punta Tragara.



GALÁPAGOS

Since Darwin landed in 1835, hundreds of endemic species have been documented. So how did everyone miss the five-foot-long pink iguanas until 2009?

Phuket, bear and elk sighting in **Vancouver**, even glimpsing devils in **Tasmania**. But for truly grand exploration, nothing beats an island that feels as big as a continent. On a clear day atop snow- and observatory-capped Mauna Kea, you can barely see the ocean that surrounds Hawaii's 4,000-square-mile **Big Island**, where gorgeous environments range from the lush Waipio Valley to the golf greens of the Kona Coast to the pioneer plants of Volcanoes National Park. Giant green islands (which do not include Greenland) range from **New Guinea** to **Newfoundland**, while *The Lord of the Rings* exposed the exceptional beauty of **New Zealand**, particularly the rain forests, fjords, lakes, and glaciers of the South Island. **PLAYING** Golf. Tennis. Spa. Biking. River canoeing. Fishing. South Carolina's **Kiawah Island**, the top-scoring isle off North America, has it all at The Sanctuary resort. So does **Hilton Head**, and more hotels, too, including a Marriott, a Westin, and a Disney. The islands of the Atlantic and the Caribbean seem to specialize in sport: **Bermuda's** new Tucker's Point Golf Club is earning raves, and inclusion in our Hot List (May 2010). Sailors lured to **Tortola** charter boats to explore the 60 islands and cays of the **British Virgin Islands** and the close-by **U.S. Virgin Islands**, including **St. John**, more than half of which is a forested national park.



VANCOUVER

Vancouver Island is the only place where Brant geese, gray whales, and bald eagles each have a dedicated festival.



BERMUDA

You'll have to dig deeper into those shorts pockets here since Bermuda has one of the highest per capita incomes anywhere: \$69,900.



SEYCHELLES

The fruit of the coco-de-mer, which grows in the Seychelles, has the largest seeds on earth, weighing 33 to 66 pounds each!