A close-up photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a red, blue, and white plaid shirt. He is focused on carving a piece of light-colored wood with a chisel. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Fall 2017

No BOUNDARIES FOR US

Inspiration for the inexperienced traveler

WOODCARVING pg 16

Eastern Shores 4
Wild Atlantic Way 29
Product reviews 30

A DougBardwell.com Publication

Travel, tech, photography and more

Happy Autumn,

Did you notice things are a bit quieter recently? Could it be that our wonderful children and grandchildren are back in school?

Perhaps, but with summer wrapping up and fall just starting next month, it's a perfect time to travel.

A road trip anytime in the fall can be marvelous, and we've got just the suggestions for you. The Eastern Shores of Maryland are fabulous in the fall (page 4) as is our favorite road trip on the Emerald Isle - the Wild Atlantic Way (page 29). The story starting on page 4 follows our exact footsteps last fall when we toured the Eastern Shores.

Product reviews this issue primarily revolve around the home and more specifically - the kitchen (page 30).

While fall usually means tailgating - we've got a couple ideas for the home-bound. Why not get outside - at least out the back door. Enjoy the fall leaves and cooler temps, while still enjoying your favorite team. The bar-b-que is right there and you're only steps away from all the comforts of home.

Want to step it up a notch - this premium TV (pg 34) is bright enough to enjoy outside and can actually handle the weather. We haven't personally tested it, but it looks cool enough to go check it out.

What are you waiting for? Get Up and Get Outdoors!

Doug



Fall 2017 Issue

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Tasty tour of Talbot County, Maryland

As an area with such rich history, Eastern Maryland is a not-to-be-missed destination for young and old alike. From the Revolutionary War to the War of 1812 to the Civil War, you can't get any closer to the pulse of these events. Home to monuments, museums and battlefields, if you want to relive the events, this is where you want to come. Oh yeah, and when you've had your fill of scholarly research, there are great places to eat and have fun besides.

C'mon down to the eastern shores of Maryland

Coming east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, you'll want to follow the signs east towards Ocean City. After the split with Route 301, look for the 662 exit and take it south. You'll follow 662 for 1.8 miles.

Wye Grist Mill

Think back to before the Revolution, and here you'll find Maryland's oldest working mill. Still in use today, [this 1682 mill](#) has been lovingly restored and is operated by The Friends of Wye Mill. Two huge grindstones still do their job, powered by an overshot waterwheel. The historical displays are very well done and very informative.



Nearby, if you've got some antsy grandchildren with you, there are six miles of hiking trails in the adjoining natural resources area where you can do bird and wildlife watching.

Then take Queen Anne Highway east and get back on US 50 heading south. Proceed about 5 miles south and turn left onto MD-662.

Council Farms

If you didn't see enough wildlife in the woods, there's certainly plenty to do here at Council Farms (11773 Old Skipton Road Cordova, MD; (443) 786-4915).

[This family-owned farm](#), located in a traditional, really red barn, is the place to go in Talbot County for fresh vegetables, fruits, home-made pies, 16 flavors of Vanderwende's ice cream, and in season – pumpkins – thousands of them, in dozens of varieties.

Outside, the pumpkin patch and Field of Fun will keep kids and kids at heart entertained for hours. The signature piece is the large John Deere com-



bine converted into a sliding board. More than 20 activities can be played, with five-foot diameter soccer balls, pump-the-duckie races, and a monstrous jumping pillow. The pumpkin patch is open seven days per week from mid-September through Halloween.

Coming out of the farm, turn right on 662 and head northeast for about a half-mile. Turn right on 3 Bridge Branch Road, and proceed 2.8 miles to 11138 3 Branch Road. Turn into...





Triple Creek Winery

This boutique winery (11138 Three Bridge Branch Road, Cordova, MD 21625 (410) 924-4190) has a tasting room, and you'll be easily infected with their love of wine and love of life. Sponsors of an annual 5k run, if you are in the area in June, you can take part. It's the only 5k I know of where the completion is celebrated by a glass of



freshly released, sweet wine bottled just for the occasion. There will also be pit beef sandwiches roasted on the grill and entertainment by the Wyes Guys.



Fox Meadows Cucumbers

This is also the site of Fox Meadows Cucumbers, started back in 2012. Raising English Cucumbers, it turns out is an amazing story. If you can grab Alex Spies, get him to give you the inside story on how they grow. I was amazed. Turns out these slender beauties are not only sweeter than standard cukes, they are also seedless, "burpless" and have a longer shelf life. Time to head further south, seven miles give or take, taking Cordova Road and then US-50 South to where we'd suggest spending the night in Easton, MD, county seat of Talbot County. In the meantime, you might enjoy this Travel Guide to Talbot County. If you brought your bike, you'll want this Talbot County Bike Trails Map



Historic Easton, MD lauded as one of America's Best Small Towns

Proceeding south on US-50 from [Cordova](#), turn right (west) on Dover Street to enter downtown [Easton](#). Prepare to enjoy the rich history and architecture of the county seat of [Talbot County](#). Pull into one of nine free public parking lots and get ready to explore. [Do you have your free Talbot County Guide?](#)

Best Small Towns in America

Easton was recently named 8th Best Small Town in America, and a short stroll around town confirms their selection. Brick is the color of choice, most often punctuated with authentic early American accent colors. From banners and flowers on the light poles to inviting park benches, this is a small town that's easy on the eyes.

As you wander the tree-lined lanes, you're sure to discover inviting little galleries and boutiques. Each is unique and a far cry from the big-box stores you're used to.

Academy Art Museum

Opening every day at 10:00 a.m., the [Academy Art Museum](#) (106 South St, Easton, MD 21601; (410) 822-2787) is a great stop. Check their calendar of events before you arrive and perhaps time your arrival to take an art class. Classes in oils, pastels, sketching and pottery are available in April.

Be sure to learn about the temporary exhibit



called Myth Makers, and witness the giant bird fashioned from tree saplings.

Pascal's Chophouse

We've tried many fine restaurants as we travel cross-country, but [Pascal's](#) (22 S Harrison St, Easton, MD 21601; (410) 822-3204) is one that we'd drive an extra hour to enjoy. This vintage home makes for a cozy dining experience where the room and the menu work together.



Eat leisurely, you're not going to want to leave.

I started with a delicious corn and crab chowder with lumps of crab meat among the grilled white corn. For a salad course, the Chophouse wedge was served with thick cut bacon and a bay blue buttermilk dressing that was quite unique. Despite the fact that this was a steakhouse, I knew I couldn't do a big steak justice, so I opted for the pan seared day boat scallops. Viola – the perfect entrée with fabulous accompaniments.



I luckily did save room for dessert – a scrumptious delight – Chef's Walnut Carrot Cake with maple orange cream cheese icing.

The Tidewater Inn

You've gotta sleep sometime, and you won't find a more comfortable place to stay than the historic [Tidewater Inn](#) (101 East Dover Street; Easton,



MD 21601; (410) 822.1300). With a wide range of room types, we opted for one of the King Suites and it was quite spacious. With separate double doors between the sleeping and living areas, I stayed up editing photos until all hours of the morning without disturbing my better half in the bedroom.

Downstairs, Hunter's Tavern is a favorite dining spot for breakfast, lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Breakfasts are a la carte Monday through Friday and buffet style on the weekends – both 7:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.



Maryland's historic seaports blend history and luxury

Checking out of the Lincoln Inn in Easton, we are heading off today to two of Maryland's historic seaports – St. Michael's and Oxford, MD. Head north on 565 for a couple blocks and turn left (west) on Bay Street (Route 33) for about ten miles. We're heading to The Inn at Perry Cabin (236 Perry Cabin Dr.; St. Michaels, MD 21663 (410) 745 2200). This would be an excellent spot for you to stay while enjoying the surrounding area.

St. Michael's, MD

Pulling in to the [Inn at Perry Cabin](#), you are immediately impressed with the beautiful architecture of this inn and spa alongside the Miles River.



St. Michael's has been a haven for boaters since its founding in 1677. Many of the famous boats of the Chesapeake were built right here, from the earliest canoe to the classic Baltimore Clipper. The Inn at Perry Cabin was originally built in the early 1800's by a friend and admirer of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. After the original family moved out, it became a riding academy and in 1980 it was purchased and remodeled by [Belmond](#), operators of fabulous trains, river cruises and hotels worldwide.



This exquisite property features an expansive lawn along its marina. Gleaming white Adirondack chairs lining the lawn are an irresistible call to sit and relax, while tall white sailboats come and go from the marina. Or, stroll through the gardens and perhaps relax with a game of crochet.



A perfect destination for a wedding, white gazebos on the lawn can make for beautiful backdrops to any special occasion. Accommodations are beautifully appointed and are available in a



multitude of rooms or suites with garden or waterfront views. From here, you can walk across the

lawn to the [Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum](#) (213 North Talbot Street, St Michaels, MD 21663; (410) 745-2916.)

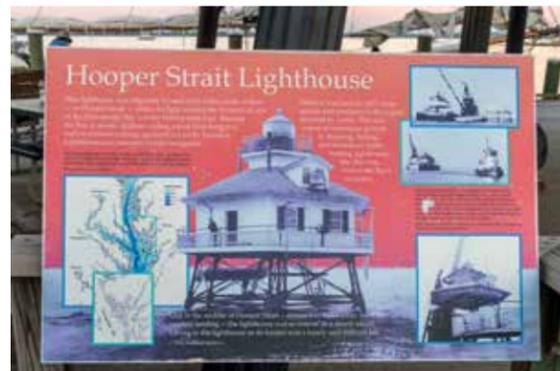
A not-to-be-missed destination, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum has been educating the nation about maritime history since 1965. Nine exhibit buildings, 18 acres, a floating fleet of historic craft, and rotating special exhibits are set alongside the Miles River, where you can also take informational tour boat trips.





Looking for a seagull's-eye-view of the museum and the harbor? Be sure to climb the stairs at the Hooper Strait Lighthouse. Insider's tip: time your visit so you can watch the sunset from atop this great perch. The day we arrived, they were having a crab feast on the lawn – heaven on a plate!!! For this writer's money, there's no finer food in the world than fresh Chesapeake Bay crabs.

The interior of the museum does a wonderful job of displaying the historic watercraft that made this area famous, but also describes the value of the entire Chesapeake Bay



area. There's also an excellent gift shop. Inspired to ply the waters in your own boat? [Kayaks, row boats and sailboats](#) are available for rental.

We didn't allow anywhere near enough time here on our whirlwind tour, so we'll be coming back again for sure. We missed the War of 1812 exhibit area, the waterfowl building and its bird decoy exhibit. Need more reasons to visit?



Oxford, MD

It's time to head south to yet another historic seaport – Oxford, MD. The quickest way is back Rt. 33 and then south on 333, but we opted for the additional 20 minutes it would take so we could experience the historic small ferry from Bellevue



to Oxford. To follow our route, head back east on 33 and then right (south) on Bellevue Road – Route 329, all the way to Bellevue Landing (27456 Oxford Road, Oxford, MD.)

The [Oxford-Bellevue Ferry](#) is reputedly the oldest privately operated ferry in the United States. Started in 1683, it transported crops and locals for years using sails and oars. It was converted to steam power in 1886. Today, the 10-minute ride operates from April



through October, seven-days-per-week and brings us into Oxford, Maryland – also chartered in 1683. Oxford and Anne Arundel were designated as the only two ports of entry for the then, young, state of Maryland. Until the revolutionary war, Oxford thrived as an international shipping port serving the surrounding tobacco plantations.

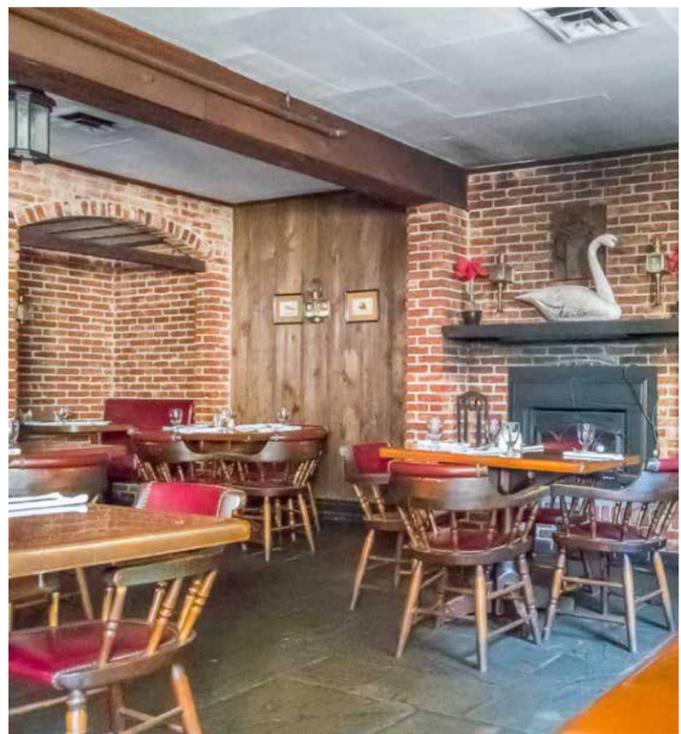
Our destination today is the [Robert Morris Inn](#) (314 North Morris Street; Oxford, MD (410) 226-5111) where we'll be taking a cooking class with



Master Chef Mark Salter. The inn used to be the home of Robert Morris Jr. – “Financier of the Revolution” and he often hosted his close friend George Washington. [A variety of rooms are available](#); but due to the historic nature of the property, if you are mobility challenged, you may wish to



inquire ahead before booking. Our cooking class featured our favorite food, and how to create the perfect Chesapeake Crab Cake. Watching a chef in action, it all looks so easy. Now if I could only get fresh bay crabs in Cleveland.



More scenes from historic Oxford, MD.

Wild, wonderful, wood carved ducks and more at the Ward Museum

Off to see the birds

From Oxford, we are heading for Salisbury, MD., home of the [Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art](#), (909 S. Schumacher Drive; Salisbury, MD 21804 (410) 742-4988). It was one of the biggest oh-wow mo-



ments during my entire road trip. The artwork represents some of the absolute finest modern-day wood carved ducks and waterfowl you will find anywhere in the world, in my opinion at least.

From the original hand-carved wooden duck decoys crafted by the Ward brothers, to fantastic owls, eagles and other birds of prey, the museum holds dozens and dozens of intricately carved examples of hand carving and finishing.

So off we go to Salisbury

Heading east from Oxford, we are going to take Route 333 for 6+ miles, until we get to US-50. Turn right on US-50 and head south on the Ocean Gateway for 38 miles. In downtown Salisbury, turn right on Ward Street, immediately right on E. Main and then immediately left on Rt. 12 – Snow Hill Road. After a half-mile, bear left onto S. Schumacher Drive and after another mile, you'll turn left into the museum parking lot just after crossing Beaglin Park Drive.



Arriving at the museum

The [Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art](#) is located alongside the Schumacher Pond, and chances are good that you'll discover some live waterfowl before you get from your car to the museum. If you have some time afterwards, you might want to walk the paths around the pond. (I say afterwards, because you are likely to be in the museum much longer than you anticipated – the exhibits are just that good.)



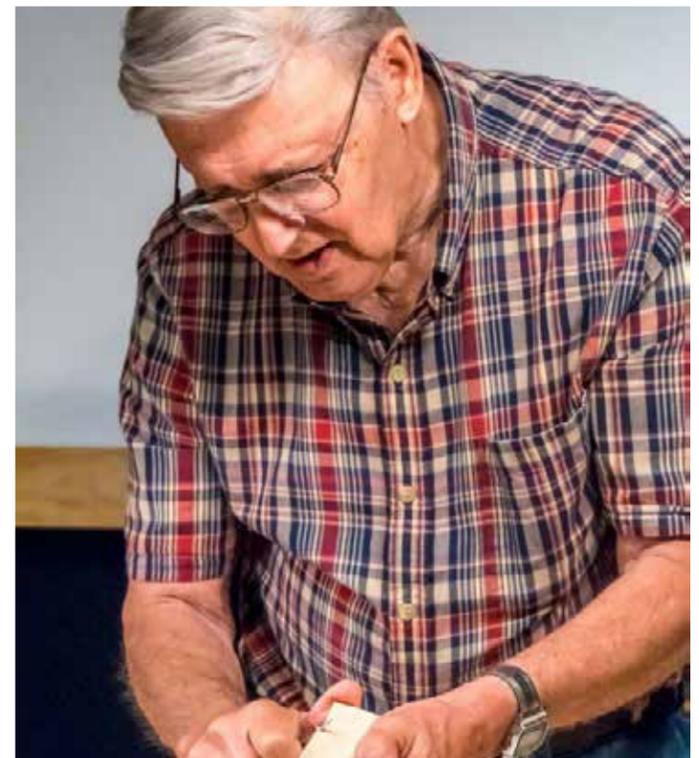
You'll find the preserved Ward Brother's wood carving shop and tools, where they carved and painted for more than 50 years. Other life-sized exhibits include the beautifully done "duck blind".

Special events are held throughout the year, and



for 2017, the [Chesapeake Wildfowl Expo](#) on October 14 would certainly be a great one.

Check ahead and see when they are doing carving demonstrations, it might become your new hobby.



World Championships

Each year, a world class competition is held in Ocean City, MD, and many of the waterfowl carving winners are on display here at the museum for the coming year. When we attended, these were some of the carvings that just blew me away.

Many of these carvings are all the more remarkable as they are only allowed one point of connection. See if you can figure out how they stay upright.

To learn more about how carved wooden ducks are judged, and the history of the museum, here's an in-depth video.

Presently, museum hours are Mon. – Sat. 10 – 5 and Sun. 12 – 5.



Check their website for current information – <http://www.wardmuseum.org> or call them at 410.742.4988.



Eastern Shores – the destination you need to see this year

If you've been following our Eastern Shore Road Trip, you've probably just spent hours inside at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, so, how about some fresh air? There are 262 acres of it waiting for you at Pemberton Historical Park (5561 Plantation Lane; Salisbury, Maryland 21801 (410) 548-4900 ext. 114).

Pemberton Historical Park



materials made or found on site, it stands today as testament to Eastern Shore regional architecture.

After 200+ years it had fallen into serious dis-

If you love nature, you'll be impressed with this description [from their website](#):

"While hiking the trails, you will encounter ecosystems and their natural complement of plants and animals that are specific to many different regions of the Eastern Shore. It is rare to find any other place on the Eastern Shore where tidal and fresh water wetlands, fresh water ponds, upland pines, hardwood forests and meadows can all be studied within the same site. This unique feature, when coupled with the historical aspects of Pemberton Park, makes it especially attractive for school studies or a casual hike."

What we found very interesting was [Pemberton Hall](#). Built in 1741 by Isaac Handy, it was the site of a thriving plantation. Built almost entirely of



repair and was considered for demolition. Fortunately, the Pemberton Hall Foundation was formed, with the intention of restoring and opening the home for visitors to the park.

Paint colors have been reproduced and furnish-

ings have been added to match historic tax inventories of the property.

Today, it and the 260-acre park that surrounds it is a great stop for a tour and look back as to what life was like as our country was being formed.



Whitehaven Hotel

If “small, charming and lovely” are typical words you use to describe your ideal getaway locations, then the [Whitehaven Hotel](#) in Whitehaven, MD should be on your short list.

Just 13 miles from Pemberton Hall, head WSW, following Rts. 349 & 352. It’s a small town, as small as they come, but don’t worry, you won’t miss it as you drive by. There’s the river ferry you have to stop for, and when you do, VIOLA, you are in Whitehaven.

The real jewel of Whitehaven is the Whitehaven Hotel (2685 Whitehaven Road – Whitehaven, MD 21856 (410) 873-3099). This B&B was originally built circa 1810, and expanded in 1877. At the time, Whitehaven was a thriving riverside port with shipyards and a cannery.

It originally served passengers crossing the Wicomico River on the small ferry



which began in 1685 and still operates today. As a roadhouse, four salesman could share a bed for 25 cents each and many would sit on the porches, enjoying an adult beverage, watching the sun set to the west.

Today, the B&B offers [eight beautifully redone rooms](#), each with lovely antiques and beautiful views. We stayed upstairs in The Victorian Bedroom, which was originally built for the innkeeper. A wonderfully large room, it opened onto a semi-private balcony and overlooked the river.

Breakfast was absolutely delicious as you will notice from the picture above. After a great meal, we had a chance to wander the garden, which was just overflowing with beautiful flowers and butterflies.

If you are looking for a short stroll to burn off some calories, you can walk the entire town in about fifteen minutes. Look out for the striking little schoolhouse and the wonderful, white-steepled church.



Red Roost Crabhouse and Restaurant

Looking for somewhere for dinner? Don't miss the all-you-can-eat crab feast available at the [Red Roost Crabhouse and Restaurant](#) (2670 Clara Road; Whitehaven, MD(410) 546-5443) – a converted chicken house. Paper on the table, a pile of crabs, wooden mallet, and you are in heaven. They also have some great bar-b-que dishes for



those who haven't acquired the taste for crabs. And if you a westerner and just don't know [how to pick crabmeat out of the shell](#), they've got instructions for you.

Hours for 2017 are Thursdays and Fridays opening at 5:30 pm. Saturdays and Sundays they open at noon. If you've got an opportunity to stop during their live entertainment hours, you're sure to enjoy the performers.

That's all folks!

Well that's it, a quick synopsis of our road trip last fall along the Eastern Shore. A big shout-out goes to the [Talbot](#) and [Wicomico](#) county tourism bureaus for hosting us, and to [Chesapeake Tours and Promotions](#) for hauling us and our gear all over Wicomico County. To plan your own Eastern



Shores road trip – give them a call.

Have you been to this part of the Eastern Shore? If so, we'd love to hear about what your favorite destinations were. Leave us a note in the comment section below. Any questions? We'll try to answer them as best we can.



Make \$\$\$ or Save \$\$\$

Tech-buying site Decluttr.com has launched an online store at [Decluttr.com](#), marking a significant transition in its business direction. Primarily known for giving customers cash for their unwanted tech items, Decluttr recently launched the store with thousands of products available to purchase.

Consumers are still able to make money on the items they no longer need, but now Decluttr is providing a less expensive, and greener alternative for consumers searching for technology in the Decluttr Store. Customers will also be able to make bigger savings on the items they want, with incentives such as 10 percent off available at key times of the year.

Products stocked online include:

- All versions of iPhone
- Cellphones from Samsung, Blackberry, HTC, LG, Motorola, Nokia & ZTE
- XBox 360 & XBox One
- Sony PlayStations
- Nintendo Wii and DS consoles
- iPads from Version 1 to latest iPad Pro
- Tablets from Acer, Google, LG, Microsoft and Samsung
- All versions of iPods

When it comes to prices, the Decluttr Store offers the best prices in the market. For example, customers can buy an unlocked iPhone 6s for \$306.99, with free tracked shipping and a 12-month warranty for a 'very good' graded device.

In comparison, a similar site is offering the same phone in a lower grade condition for \$401.74, plus \$7.99 shipping with a 30-day return option.

For more information on the Decluttr Store, visit: <http://www.decluttr.com/us/store>

About Decluttr

Decluttr.com is a fast, easy and FREE way to sell CDs, DVDs, Games, Books, Cell Phones and Tech! The service removes all the stress and costs of selling your unwanted stuff online. All customers need to do is get an instant price for your items using the website or FREE app, pack them into any box and ship them for FREE. Thanks to Decluttr's Fast Next Day Payments, customers then get paid the day after their items arrive by direct deposit, PayPal or check – or they can donate to charity! For more information on trade-in values, visit [decluttr.com](#).

Extended Trips

Want to really get away? Is the standard week-long vacation not enough? If you've got the time, here's a selection of trips – relaxing on the Danube River, an excursion across New Zealand, bike tours through Europe and Africa, and even an expedition cruise to Antarctica's Ross Sea. Here are 10 adventures ranging from two weeks to nearly four months that are filled with nature, culture, history and more.

1. Private New Zealand Adventure:



Starting with 35 days in New Zealand, this custom itinerary includes whitewater rafting down the Rangitaiki River, hiking tours through national parks, tastings at historic wineries in the South Island's Cromwell region, helicopter flights to remote locations, fly fishing at top-tier lodges, tours of the glow worm-lined Waitomo Caves and sailing through the Bay of Islands. After over a month in New Zealand, the remaining nine days are spent in Hawaii at Maui's Montage Kapalua Bay and Honolulu's renowned Halekulani hotel. For more information, visit Frontiers International Travel at <http://www.frontierstravel.com>.

2. Relaxing Danube Cruise:

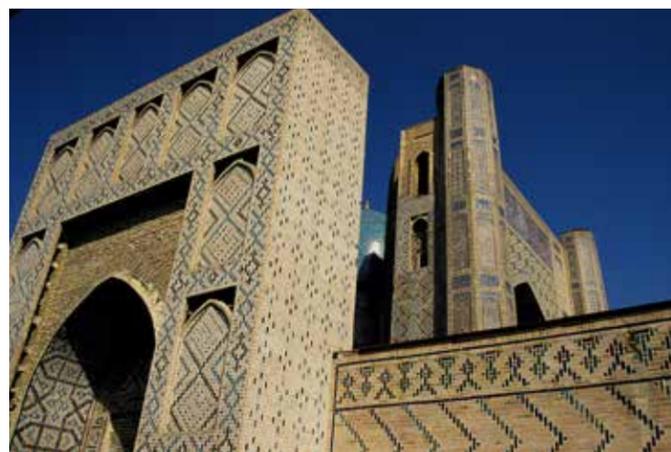
On Riviera Travel's new 15-day Budapest to the Black Sea cruise on the Danube River, combine relaxation with the architectural, cultural and natural wonders of a region that once fell be-



hind the Iron Curtain. Cruise from Budapest, the imperial city of two halves, through the towering cliffs of the Iron Gates Gorge to the nature-rich, 2,200-square-mile Danube Delta and back. Excursions include an equestrian farm on Hungary's Great Plain, the scene of major battle of Russo-Turkish War in Bulgaria, the preserved medieval fortress of Baba Vidin in Bulgaria and the Mesolithic archaeological site of Lepenski Vie. For more information, visit <http://www.riviera-travel.com/budapest-to-black-sea>.

3. Silk Road by Private Train:

Retracing one of the most important trading routes of ancient civilization, this 21-day private train tour between Beijing and Moscow from MIR Corporation follows in the footsteps of such leg-



endary figures as Alexander the Great and Marco Polo. For centuries, merchants and adventurers journeyed to and from China on ancient routes

through some of the most testing landscapes in the world, trading silk, spices and perfumes. These "highways" – stretching some 4,000 miles collectively came to be called the Silk Road. For more information, visit <http://www.mircorp.com/trip/the-silk-road-by-private-train-westbound>.

4. Ultimate Africa Safari:



Africa is the second largest of the Earth's seven continents, making up about 22 percent of the world's total land area, and home to Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest freestanding mountain in the world; Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World; Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest unbroken volcanic caldera; Olduvai Gorge, one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world; and Cape Town, which has to be one of the globe's most beautiful cities with award-winning winelands a stone's throw away. This 29-day private tour explores the best Southern Africa has to offer and stays at the most luxurious hotels and tent camps available. For more information, visit Frontiers Elegant Journeys at <http://www.frontiersej.com>.

5. Ross Sea Expedition:



On this ultimate 32-day voyage to the seventh continent from Adventure Life, sail from the tip of South America south to the Antarctic Peninsula, west to Peter I Island and across the Ross Sea, then north to New Zealand. Visit Ernest Shackleton's and Robert Falcon Scott's huts, the U.S. research center at McMurdo Station, the Dry Valleys and wildlife-rich Campbell Island. The ice-class vessel Ortelius also offers opportunities to explore by air, with transfers to and from the ship by helicopter, possibly including to the Ross Ice Shelf. For more information, visit <http://www.adventure-life.com/antarctica/cruises/2895/ross-sea-antarctic-odyssey>.

6. Venice to Aquitaine by Bike:



This 30-day tour by Bike Odyssey leads guests 1,550 miles across the Dolomites and Austrian Alps, along the banks of the Danube River to Bavarian Germany and beyond through Alsace and Burgundy in France. It encompasses some of the most beautiful riding routes, scrumptious food and wine regions, and spectacular castles – both to stay in and to visit – in all of Europe. For more information, visit <http://www.bikeodyssey.cc/tours/lionheart>.

7. Seven-Nation Journey Through History:

From low-lying Belgrade up through the Dinaric Alps, down to the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia and back up to mountainous Macedonia, this 16-day overland journey ties together seven of the wildly divergent Balkan countries. Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox, politically contradictory, ethnically varied,



this kaleidoscopic region offers an apprenticeship in diversity. For more information, visit <http://www.mircorp.com/trip/balkan-odyssey-cross-roads-of-culture>.

8. Ride Africa from Cairo to Cape Town:



TDA Global Cycling's original epic bike expedition takes riders from the Pyramids of Giza in Cairo, Egypt, to Cape Town, South Africa, in the shadow of Table Mountain – a 119-day journey covering more than 7,000 miles. Cycle through 10 countries, along the Nile past ancient temples, through the Sudanese desert, up and down Ethiopia's rugged Simien Mountains, across the Equator in Kenya, past Mount Kilimanjaro, to Lake Malawi, Victoria Falls, and along the edges of the magnificent Kalahari and Namib deserts, en route to the finish. For more information, visit <http://tdaglobalcycling.com/tour-dafrique>.

9. Two Weeks in Wyoming and Montana:

Spend a week at Red Reflet, a 27,000-acre



luxury resort and working ranch in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, where activities include equestrian programs, shooting ranges, ATV tours, hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing and family-friendly offerings. Then drive west and spend a few days exploring the natural wonders of Yellowstone National Park. After exiting the park in Montana, go for a week at Collective Yellowstone in the exclusive Moonlight Basin community in Big Sky. Luxury tents there provide access to more hiking, biking and fishing, as well as canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, golf and farm-to-table dining. Visit <http://red-reflet-ranch.net> and <http://www.collectiveveretreats.com/retreat/collective-yellowstone>.

10. Follow Caesar's Footsteps:



Ride & Seek offers a cycling tour of historical proportions tracing the footsteps of Julius Caesar on a 33-day, 1,800-mile journey from London to Rome. Split into two stages, the "Caesar Expedition" traverses England, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Italy on a historical, gastronomic and cultural excursion. Crossing waterways, vine-clad hills and mountain passes, this is the only tour of its kind being offered today. For more information, visit <http://www.rideandseek.com/epic/caesar>.

The Wild Atlantic Way

By [Ronan Menton](#)

Wild Atlantic Way route is a major draw of visiting Ireland with covering some of Ireland's top attractions such as Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry and Dingle. The best way to experience is a hiring a car for a couple weeks to thoroughly enjoy the drive with the luxury of taking your time and stopping whenever a photography opportunity presents itself.

County Cork is located in southwest Ireland, and this driving route starts in Kinsale and follows the N71 towards Baltimore, stopping at Clonakilty.

There are smaller routes to take from Wild Atlantic Way and highlights;

- [Ring of Kerry](#)
- [Slea Head](#)
- [Ring of Beara](#)
- [Sky Road](#)

Kinsale

A colourful village that worthy to spend a couple hours walking through the small side roads & alleys. Being located on the coast offers fresh fish to be had, check out Fishy Fishy restaurant or their takeaway.

Nearby is the Charles Fort which you could walk the coastal trail from Kinsale to the fort via Scilly Walk, a 6km round trip. The Charles Fort is a 17th century military based with a star-shaped fort on the water's edge.

Mizen Head

The most Southerly point of Ireland looking out to the Atlantic seascape with an iconic Mizen footbridge which you can cross. Great clifftop scenery.

Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry is a 179km loop in the southwest of County Kerry, a popular route for visitors to take by a tourist bus or their own car. Commonly driven counter-clockwise to avoid being



stuck behind a coach - an important note to take as you would want to see the beautiful views.

Skellig Ring & Islands

A detour off the Ring of Kerry drive, an 18km route taking in the views of the famous Skellig Michael islands which has recently been featured in Star Wars films. Do visit Valentia Island for 360 viewpoints from Geokaun Mountains.

Kylemore Abbey

Kylemore Abbey & Walled Garden is located on a beautiful castle grounds with a picturesque entrance. Located in County Galway in the Connemara National Park.

Sky Road

A small route with large scenic views, this is an 11km sky road touring route starting from Clifden in Connemara region. Follow the signs for Sky Road to enjoy fantastic views of the coastline, old coast guard, bays and more.

Slieve League

Actually higher clifftops than Cliffs of Moher and equally matching dramatic clifftops. This free clifftop attraction is one of the highest in Europe and worth a visit without the Cliffs of Moher crowds. Located in County Donegal.

About the author: Ronan Menton is the webmaster for a number of travel related websites and has been for some time in Ireland, associated with search engine optimization in the Irish travel industry. Among the many sites he is currently working on is the following: [Car Rental Ireland](#)

Products we've been testing (and recommending)



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WÜSTHOF's Four-Piece BBQ Set raises the bar for BBQ

If you've ever worked with cheap aluminum BBQ tools, you know the frustrations. Now, I can honestly say that I've found the most durable set of BBQ tools I've ever used – great heft in the handle and heavy duty stainless steel and heat resistant POM handles.

Viking 8 Qt. Pressure Cooker

Looking to prepare fantastic meals in phenomenally short times? Look no further than the Viking 8 Qt. Pressure Cooker. Cooking under pressure retains the food's natural vitamins and minerals, instead of letting them escape as in conventional cooking. This good-sized cooker is ideal for stovetop cooking and will work with gas, electric or induction cooktops, cooking your meal three to four times faster and saving up to 70% of your energy costs.



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OWC USB-C Dock

As laptops get smaller and smaller, manufacturers leave off more and more ports. The computers look more svelte, but you are now required to buy adapters or lose functionality. With this OWC dock and one USB-C connection, you'll be feeling like you are working on a desktop machine with all the ports you probably need. The dock works equally well with PC's or Mac's.



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AT HOME WITH TODAY'S TECH

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Melitta now makes pour-over coffee even better

The Melitta name is synonymous with fine pour-over coffee, and has been for over 100 years.

Melitta Bentz, the brand's innovative founder, revolutionized the world of coffee in 1908 when she took a brass pot from her kitchen, punched holes in it and used a piece of paper from her son's notebook to create the very first Pour-Over™—the precursor to the modern day Pour-Over™.

Now, with over a century of experience behind them, Melitta has introduced their new Signature Pour-Over line for coffee connoisseurs everywhere. While the brewing process is still three-step simple, the new brewers offer great new advantages.



The Camping Mattress: Interesting Alternatives to the Air Mattress

By *Michael Roberts, D.C.*

Your camping mattress can often make or break a fun camping trip and turn it from a good time to an ordeal where sleep is at a premium. Despite this, not a lot of thought is often put into the camping mattress until after a bad experience or two. Usually the first camping mattress people opt for is an air mattress, these are the most popular, and are a good choice as long as you don't buy the cheap kind. One of the main issues with an air mattress, however, is air leakage. This is something that will happen sooner or later, but there are alternatives.

The **foam mattress** is one of your best alternatives to the air mattress. It's all-purpose, portable and durable. It may be little bulkier and heavier, but it's a fair trade for the durability gained. There are two kinds of foam mattresses, **closed cell** and **open cell**. The closed cell mattress is made of a harder, usually, waterproof foam. The open cell foam is softer, covered with a protective material and requires some air to inflate through the open cell structure. The good news is these mattresses are self-inflating.

Here are some of the pros and cons of the foam camping mattress:

Open cell foam:

Pros:

- It's very lightweight, although heavier than an air mattress.
- It's very portable and can be compacted to a small size. Some models are comparable to an air mattress.
- It provides good insulation from the ground.
- The open celled foam mattress self inflates, saving you the time and effort of doing it yourself.

Cons:

- These mattresses still require air, so they can still be punctured, although repair kits are available.

- They can be expensive.
- Some good examples of open celled foam mattresses are the Therm-a-Rest NeoAir XLite and the Therm-a-Rest luxury map.

Closed cell foam:

Pros:

- Multipurpose; closed cell foam can be used as seat to rest on or in some cases, as a water float (I personally use a foam pool float).
- Portable; these are usually heavier and bulkier than air mattresses or open celled mattresses but still surprisingly light and portable as these can be folded, rolled or otherwise compacted for transportation.
- It's durable, that means no air leaks and no ending up

on the ground in the middle of the night. The closed cell foam mattress is a good choice for rocky surfaces or areas where an air mattress or open celled mattress could get punctured.

Cons:

- Heavier and bulkier than air or closed cell

mattresses

- May not provide a lot of padding (more padding equals more bulk).

Other alternatives include laying down a few blankets or comforters, bamboo mats and survival beds (I'll explain this). I'll go over the pros and cons of each:

Blankets/comforters:

Pros:

- It's cheap, because you already own these, you don't have to buy anything new.
 - This is a very flexible method as you can play with the thickness of the padding under you or over you.
 - Durable as the blankets can conform to any surface without being punctured, although they can tear, but even with a tear they are still useable
- Cons:

- Very heavy and

- bulky, definitely not for hiking.
- Not very compact, will not fit in a pack well.
- May not provide a lot of padding (as mentioned before, more padding equals more bulk).

Bamboo mat:

The bamboo mat is a lightweight portable alternative to an air mattress, however its application is

limited to warmer climates.

Pros:

- It's cheap.
- It's lightweight.
- It's compact.
- It's durable.
- It's multipurpose, you can use it to sit on, eat on, lay on, possibly more.

Cons:

- Although, it's durable, it can break with enough force.
- Provides very little protection from the ground in terms of insulation.
- May not be very comfortable if the ground is rough.

Survival beds: Survival beds are made from materials you find in your environment. The idea is to get you off the ground and provide you cushion and insulation. For examples they could be as simple as piling up leaves or pine boughs. Another step up would be laying out logs and then piling bedding like those mentioned above on top of the logs. Or they could be more involved and require some lashing, cutting and assembly.

Pros:

- These types of beds are free.
- You can consider these weightless as far as hiking is concerned, because they are made on the spot and left behind when you leave.
- Nothing to carry, except maybe a knife.
- No need to worry about durability, because you aren't keeping it.
- Can be very comfortable and warm if done right.

Cons:

- Takes more time and energy than other types of bedding.
- If done wrong, these may offer no protection from the ground.

As you can see, there are several alternatives to the air mattress. Some are good for hiking, some are not. Again, I'm not knocking air mattresses, they make great camping mattresses, and sometimes these are the ideal solution. Light weight, soft and insulated. And if you buy a quality mattress, you won't have to worry so much about leaks, which can be patched any way. The air mattress is a good all-purpose camping mattress, but it's good to have alternatives.



“Homegating” Kicks off with Football Season Underway

Bring the tailgating experience to your own backyard



Football season is near, and with it come idealized visions of the perfect tailgate party – a sunny fall day, the crisp air, the aroma of burgers on the grill, the pre-game excitement. But sometimes it’s not so perfect. Traffic has you running late. The grill is all set, but where’s the propane? Your “lucky” folding chair just collapsed. Is there a better way? There is, and it’s called “homegating”.

Homegating brings the tailgating experience to your own backyard. All that’s needed is a SunBriteTV outdoor television and you’ve got the best of both worlds – outdoors on a made-for-football autumn day and all the comforts of home!

With a backyard or patio outfitted with an outdoor television by SunBriteTV you’ll have a tough time convincing friends to ever tailgate again. It will be nothing but homegating for them. And why not? You and your buddies can sit outdoors and enjoy a beautiful fall day while watching the game on a large screen TV, and keep that grill fired up throughout the game. Meanwhile, there’s a refrigerator full of beer and access to a real bathroom!

“Football season is one of the best times of year. It’s a time for people to get together, enjoy the beautiful weather and one of the greatest American sports of all time,” says Jonathan Johnson, General Manager, SunBriteTV. “With one of our TV’s, fans don’t have to deal with bumper-to-bumper game day traffic, hot, crowded parking lots or lousy seats. They can watch the game in the comfort of their own backyard!”

SunBriteTV’s new 4K Ultra-High Definition (UHD) Veranda Series TVs feature superior safety, durability and performance in shaded outdoor areas compared to standard indoor televisions. Veranda’s screens are up to

30 percent brighter than typical indoor televisions, so they deliver a fantastic image any time of day or night. Rust-proof, powder-coated aluminum

exteriors and a watertight cable entry system prevent moisture, insects, dust and salt corrosion from affecting components outside and in. Starting at just \$1,499 for the 4K UHD 43-inch model, the new Veranda series is the most affordable true outdoor TV ever. Or go bigger with a 55- or 65-inch set.



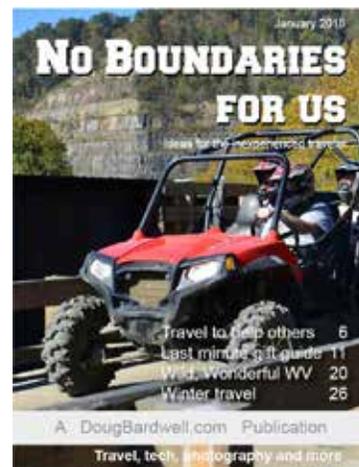
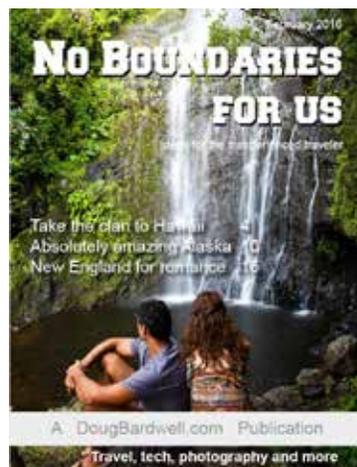
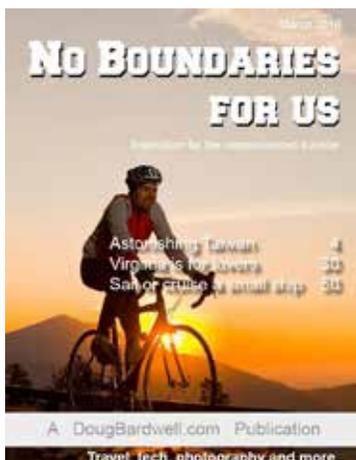
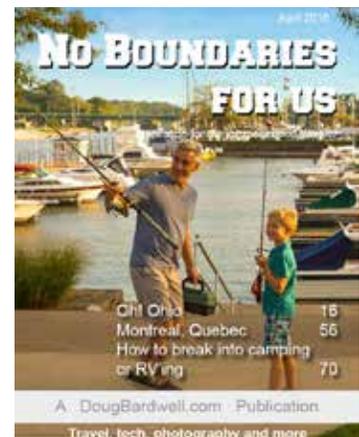
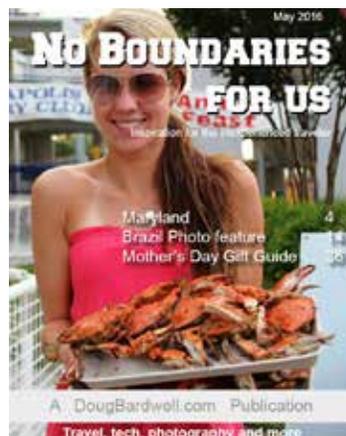
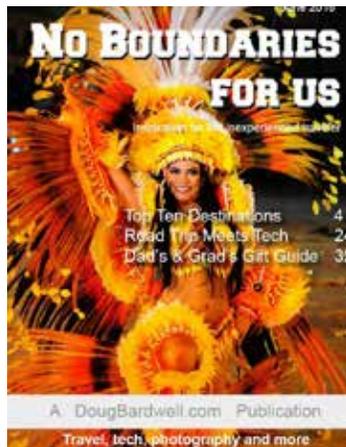
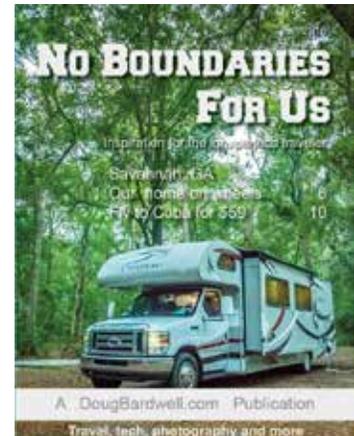
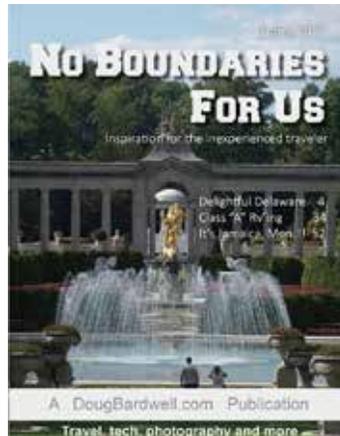
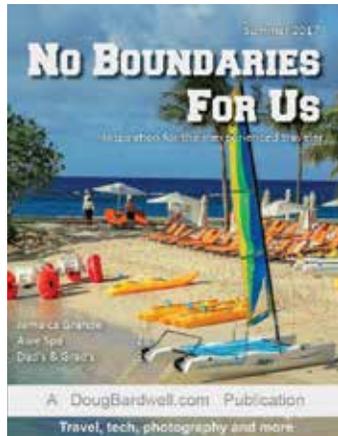
Built for permanent outdoor installation in shaded locations, the Veranda Series offers an operating temperature range of -24° to 104°F and storage temperature range from -24° to 140°F. SunBriteTV also offers the new 4K UHD Signature Series for partial sun applications and the rugged Pro Series for full sun.

Follow SunBriteTV on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SunBriteTV>.

About SunBriteTV
SunBriteTV engineers and manufactures award-winning televisions and displays built specifically for outdoor use. SunBriteTV developed the industry’s first all-weather TV in 2004 and its products have been time-tested in-home installations, outdoor sports arenas, restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, colleges, and airports. All models are available through SunBriteTV’s network of Authorized Dealers. To inquire about becoming an Authorized Dealer, contact SunBriteTV at 866.357.8688, or visit the Dealer Inquiry page at www.SunBriteTV.com.



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