

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS TRAVEL PLANNERS



Share the Journey

Tee Time, Tipples, & Fine Cigars
5 Top Vacations for Discerning Men

Hi there!

Thanks so much for downloading my guide!

I put this list together to help you embark on an enriching getaway themed around your passions. As a travel specialist, I've found that trips that focus on what interests you most are the trips that tend to stay with you—long after the flight home. And while there are lots of travel tips out there on “spa retreats” and “girlfriend getaways,” there's less info for the guys. But you deserve to embark on a passion-driven vacation, too!

So whether it's a themed trip with your golf (or drinking!) buddies, or a getaway with your spouse, here's to a vacation that truly excites you. I hope these 5 ideas help you put an interesting twist on your next escape!

Share the journey,

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#1 Golf-Themed Luxury Cruise



If you've exhausted the links at home, it's time to seek out some spectacular golfing settings farther afield. A golf-themed cruise—whether it's down a river or across an ocean—lets you do just that.

The Caribbean is brimming with world-class designer golf courses. Instead of just visiting one course while staying at a resort, hop on a luxury ocean cruise specifically designed for golfers. French luxury cruise line Ponant offers the chance to putt your way through multiple islands as part of a Pro Am tour, alongside professional golfers. Less experienced golfers can also take advantage of special golfing packages.

Prefer verdant hills and chalky cliffs to palm trees? Explore the best courses in Europe on board a river cruise. For example, AmaWaterways' Concierge Golf Program organizes tee times for you at renowned courses in Prague, Germany, Austria, and beyond. A luxury Mercedes will pick you up from the ship's port and transport you to the course—all you have to focus on is your swing! And AmaWaterways isn't the only river cruise line going all in on golf. PerryGolf partners with river and small ship cruise line Azamara to offer golf-themed itineraries all around the world—including the British Isles, the Mediterranean, New Zealand, and South Africa.

The best thing about a golf vacation on board a cruise? You can travel with companions who aren't quite as enamored with the links as you are ... and they'll still have an incredible time. Whether relaxing on board or exploring the fascinating ports, your travel companions will get a kick out of the trip even if they never set foot on a course.

#2 Distillery and Brewery Tours in the British Isles



Glenlivet. Macallan. Jameson. Guinness. Many of the world's most prized tipples and brews hail from the British Isles. Theme your tour through Ireland, Scotland, and beyond by focusing on tastings at award-winning breweries and distilleries. For example, the Guinness Storehouse is a must-stop in Dublin for all lovers of the creamy stout. You get to play bartender and pour your own draught from behind the bar! Serious whisky aficionados, meanwhile, might be up for the journey to the Isle of Islay off the coast of Scotland, home to the Ardbeg Distillery—whose whiskys have been voted World Whisky of the Year, World's Best Single Malt, and more.

With all your tipple tasting, it's probably a good idea to turn your vacation into a fully customized chauffer-driven tour. Your private driver can whisk you from distillery to distillery, while you compare tasting notes with your travel companions. The other benefit to a private tour like this? You can easily go off the beaten path to explore smaller distilleries and microbreweries that interest you. Let your palate be the guide.

#3 Rum Distillery Tours in the Caribbean



Quench your thirst on the other—sunnier!—side of the world with a rum-themed tour through the Caribbean. Concentrate your travels in Puerto Rico, where many of the best rum distilleries are located. For example, you can visit Bacardi's operations in San Juan, Puerto Rico's fascinating capital. After a tour of the distillery—or even a mixology class where you can craft the freshest mojitos—explore Old San Juan's colorful cobblestone streets and seaside forts. Other must-tour Caribbean distilleries include Hampden Estate in Jamaica, River Antoine (which is very popular with the locals) in Grenada, and the bevy of distilleries on the islands of St. Barts and Martinique in the French Antilles.

Are you a golfer, too? Combine your two interests on a single outstanding vacation. Stay at a top golfing resort in Puerto Rico (or another Caribbean island), then explore world-class rum distilleries on your excursions.

#4 Cigar Factory Tours in Cuba



True, Cuba may not be the easiest place to visit (you'll need a special visa to get there) ... but veritable cigar aficionados will be rewarded for their travel troubles. And in fact, specialized travel companies even offer cigar-themed trips to Cuba planned out for you—taking the trouble out of traveling there altogether!

These in-depth tours will open your eyes to the entire process of making a prized cigar—inarguably Cuba's most famous (and controversial) export. From the farms where tobacco is grown and picked to the factories where it is rolled by expert staff, you'll truly see it all. In between your cigar-themed activities, enjoy the beautiful pastel-colored storefronts, vintage cars, and warm ocean breezes of Havana and beyond. These tours also promote cross-cultural understanding; you'll not only enjoy the cigars, you'll meet the hard-working people who farm and craft them.

A bonus for rum lovers: Cuba is known for its rum, too! You'll no doubt indulge in a few rum and cigar pairings along your journey.

#5 Whisky Tours in Japan



A whisky-focused trip to Japan?! Yes, you read that right. And serious whisky connoisseurs wouldn't be surprised—Japan has been producing whisky since the late 19th century. Over the past few decades, the island nation's profile as a top whisky producer has risen to star status.

So, explore the smokier, smoother side of Japan with private tours of top distilleries. Some distilleries—like Suntory's Hakushu distillery—make for easy day trips from bustling Tokyo. Others are nestled in Japan's uniquely mountainous rural areas, tucked away among temples and rivers. Don't miss your chance to tour the facilities in Miyagi and Hokkaido, home to Whisky Advocate's 2018 Whisky of the Year, Nikka From the Barrel.

You can easily combine stops at Japan's top distilleries with visits to the country's most iconic sites—like Kyoto, downtown Tokyo, and all kinds of breathtaking temples, shrines and Zen gardens—so you can make the most of your Japanese journey.



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