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WONDERS WITHIN REACH

*Follow your dreams to the
world's treasured places*

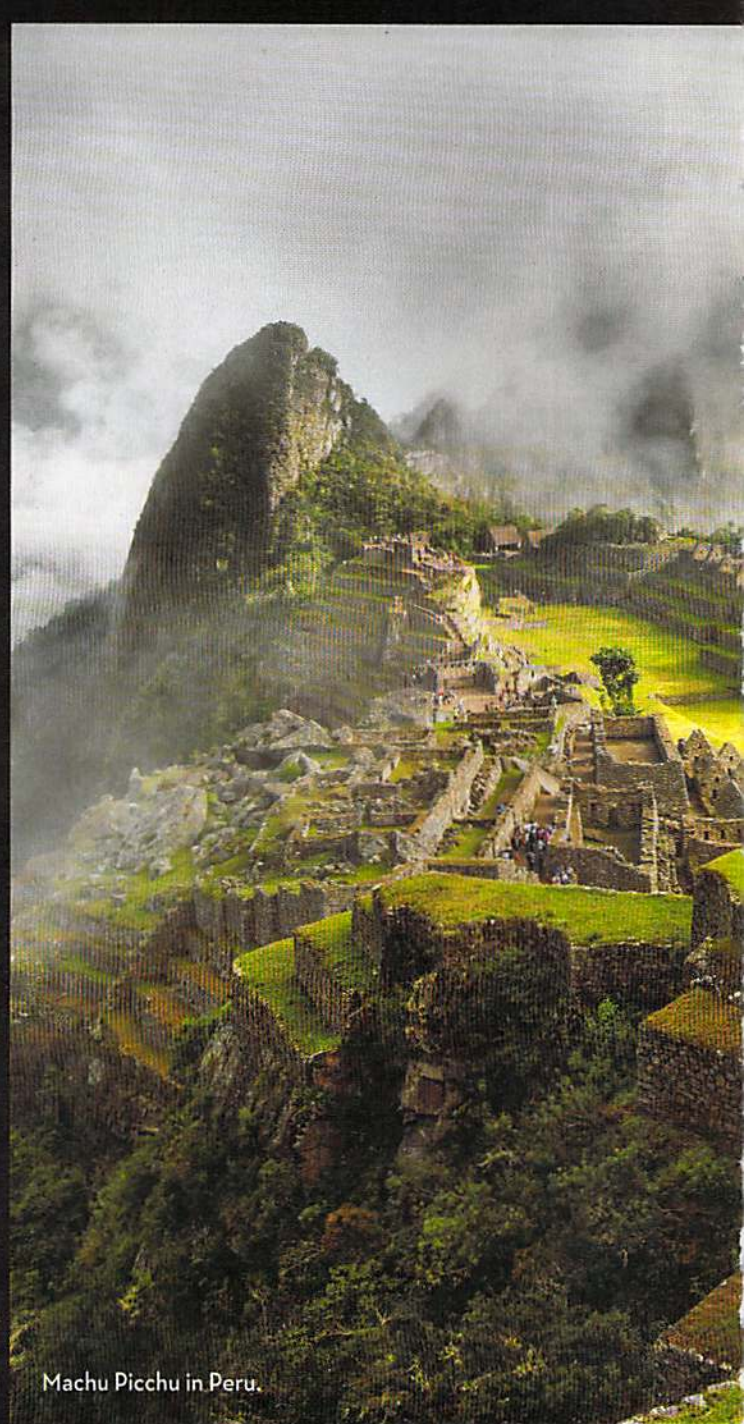
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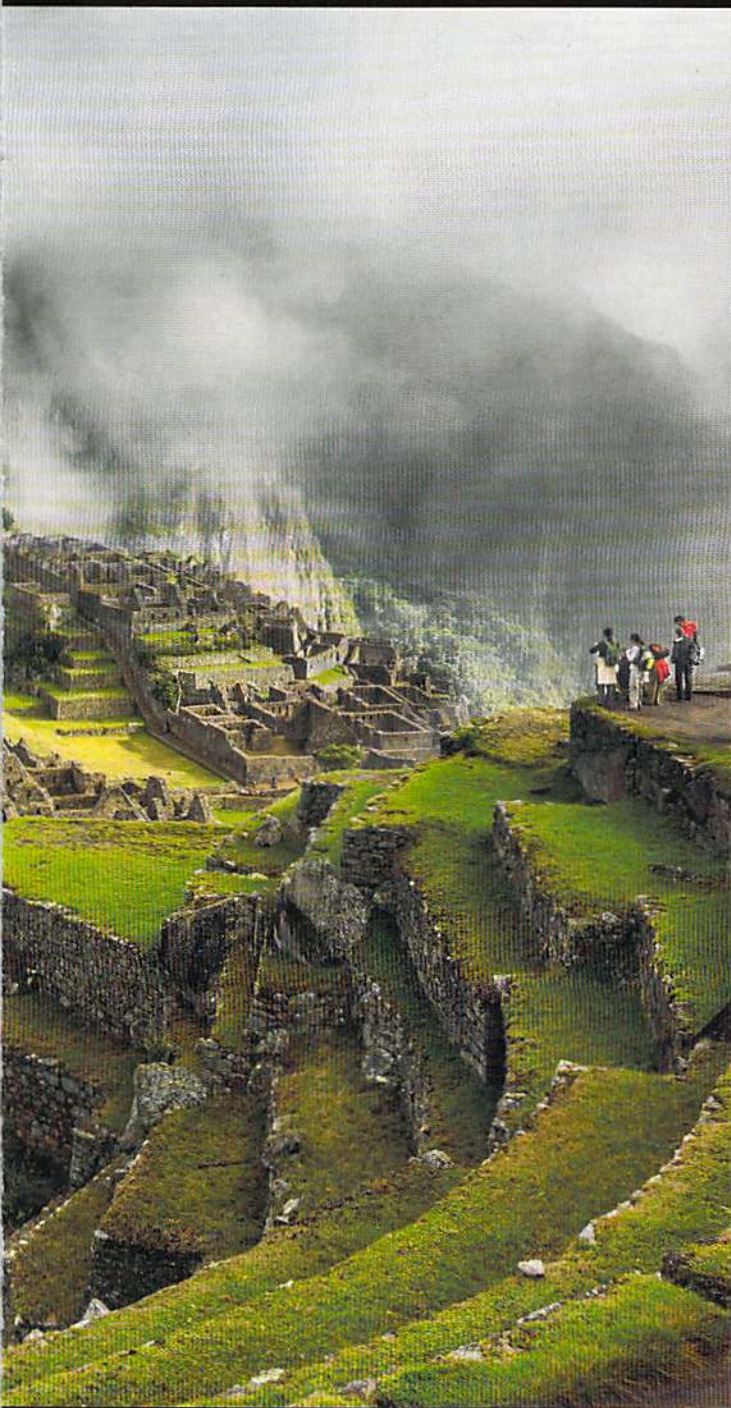


Australia's Great Barrier Reef.



Machu Picchu in Peru.

DREAM



Turkey's whirling dervishes.

TIME

When did you last update your travel wish list? It's time to dust off those daydreams—and maybe add some new ones. From wandering along the Great Wall of China to mingling with penguins in Antarctica, this varied list of ideas will fuel your travel fantasies—and may help make some of them come true. >>



{ANTARCTICA}

MEET THE PENGUINS

Black-backed and blubber-bellied, penguins are among the most adorable creatures on Earth. Several species of these tuxedoed birds gather in huge, squawking rookeries on the Antarctic continent. A guided boat excursion—a popular feature of cruises to Antarctica—allows travelers to get acquainted with these lively and fascinating animals.

One excellent penguin-watching site is Brown Bluff, a cocoa-colored Antarctic promontory that serves as home to tens of thousands of the black-and-white birds. With their generally inquisitive natures, penguins make excellent subjects for amateur wildlife photographers. The scenery itself is just as stunning: Visitors won't want to miss the icy cliffs and caldera bay of volcanic Deception Island and crescent-shaped Half Moon Island.

{GRAND CANYON}

RUGGED GRANDEUR

The Grand Canyon awes visitors with its towering rock formations, epic overlooks and glowing sunsets. Millions flock to this



national wonder each year, to view it from a scenic overlook or explore the terrain by foot, raft or mule.

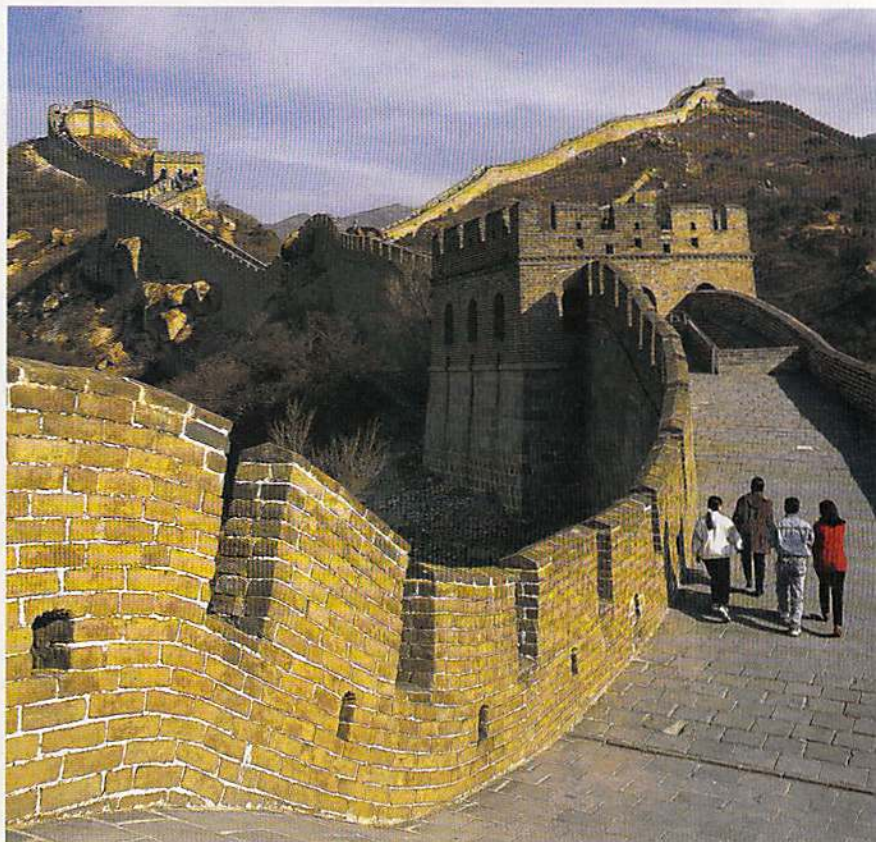
Equally stunning is a ride on the Grand Canyon Railway. This restored 1901-era track runs from Williams, Arizona, to the canyon's South Rim, through colorful deserts and lush forests. Glass-domed cars make it easy to soak in the wonder, and it's not uncommon to spy antelope-like pronghorn, dainty-footed mule deer—and maybe even a mountain lion.

{GREAT BARRIER REEF}

WONDER DOWN UNDER

Imagine an underwater realm bigger than the United Kingdom, more colorful than a pack of Crayolas and as alien as another planet. That's the Great Barrier Reef, a more than 1,250-mile complex of coral off the northeastern coast of Australia. Diving or snorkeling its balmy waters—or observing its aquatic wonders from a glass-bottomed boat—is a Technicolor thrill. Giant clams, sleepy turtles, pulsing sea anemones, placid reef sharks and bright-blue damselfish are only a sliver of the thousands of species that call the reef home.

View from the Grand Canyon's North Rim.



{SOUTH DAKOTA}

MAGNIFICENT MOUNT RUSHMORE

It took sculptor Gutzon Borglum (and hundreds of workers) 14 years to carve the massive presidential images that grace Mount Rushmore (*above, middle*). More than 70 years after its completion, visitors come from all over the world to marvel at its grandeur.

The Presidential Trail, an easy, tree-shaded walking path, offers the best views of the 60-foot-tall heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Many travelers like to come at sunrise, while others prefer to visit in the evening, when the sculpture is illuminated by soft lights.

{MACHU PICCHU}

CITY IN THE CLOUDS

The mist-swathed emerald terraces and stone walls of Machu Picchu rise from the tropical forest like remnants of an adventurer's dream. Perched high atop the Andes Mountains in Peru at an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet, this 15th-century Incan city escaped destruction by Spanish invaders—then lay forgotten for centuries to all but locals.

Locals in traditional Peruvian dress.



Adventurous travelers may choose to make a two- or four-day hike to Machu Picchu along the Inca Trail, stopping to soak in the magnificent mountain views and explore smaller Incan ruins along the way. A quicker option is to take the three-hour train ride from the city of Cuzco. However they arrive, visitors are drawn to one of Machu Picchu's most intriguing sites: the Palace of the Princess, occupied long ago by one of the very Incan nobles for whom this mountain city was built.

{CHINA}

WALKING THE GREAT WALL

Unspooling for more than 12,000 miles across the heart of China, the Great Wall (*above, right*) is one of the most formidable edifices on Earth. It stands as a testament to the power of human will (not to mention the efforts of hundreds of thousands of workers over two millennia).

A popular site to visit is Badaling, about 50 miles outside Beijing, where the Wall has been well restored.

Those in search of fewer crowds head to a more remote site known as Jinshanling, where dozens of the Wall's watchtowers stand as mute witnesses to the power of the past.



{TURKEY}

BEATING HEART OF HISTORY

At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the city of Istanbul beguiles travelers with storied palaces, spice-scented bazaars and steaming *hammams* (public baths). One unforgettable site: The Hagia Sophia (*above*), a cathedral-turned-mosque-turned-museum that's among Turkey's most important monuments, both for its architecture and its rich history. Even more intrigue awaits in Cappadocia, where in ancient times, people fleeing persecution dug underground towns as many as eight levels deep. Just north of the underground city, at the Saruhan Caravanserai (an ancient way station for travelers), the Sufi mystics known as whirling dervishes enchant guests with their ecstatic spinning dance.

{ROME}

ART FOR THE AGES

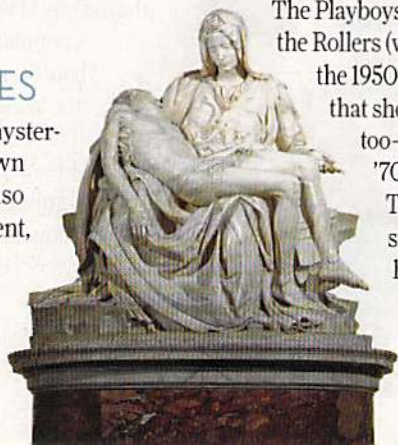
It's one of the world's great mysteries: how the civilization known for its laid-back *la dolce vita* also produced so many magnificent, labor-intensive artworks.

Whatever the explanation, anyone whose heart has fluttered at the sight of a da Vinci or Caravaggio will want to visit the Vatican Museums, where shaded courtyards and palatial halls house works by these and other masters. At the end of this art-filled excursion lies the Sistine Chapel and its famously frescoed ceiling. Just a few minutes' walk away, in St. Peter's Basilica, is Michelangelo's *Pieta*.

{AT SEA}

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Thousands of pop culture aficionados set sail each year on rock 'n' roll-themed cruises, where they shake, strut, bounce and sway to the beat of their favorite bands. Musical cruises often feature favorites from years past, such as Gary Lewis and The Playboys, or cover bands like Rocky and the Rollers (which plays popular songs from the 1950s and '60s). It's easy to find trips that showcase other musical genres, too—such as disco cruises featuring '70s icons like Gloria Gaynor and Thelma Houston. Whatever the style of music, you're sure to come home with indelible memories. ■



Michelangelo's *Pieta*.



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HAGIA SOPHIA: ALEX SEGRE/ALAMY; PIETA: COSAMIN-CONSTANTIN SAVVA/ALAMY

CULTURE