

compass

Travel / Auto / People / Leisure

WHERE ARE YOU?

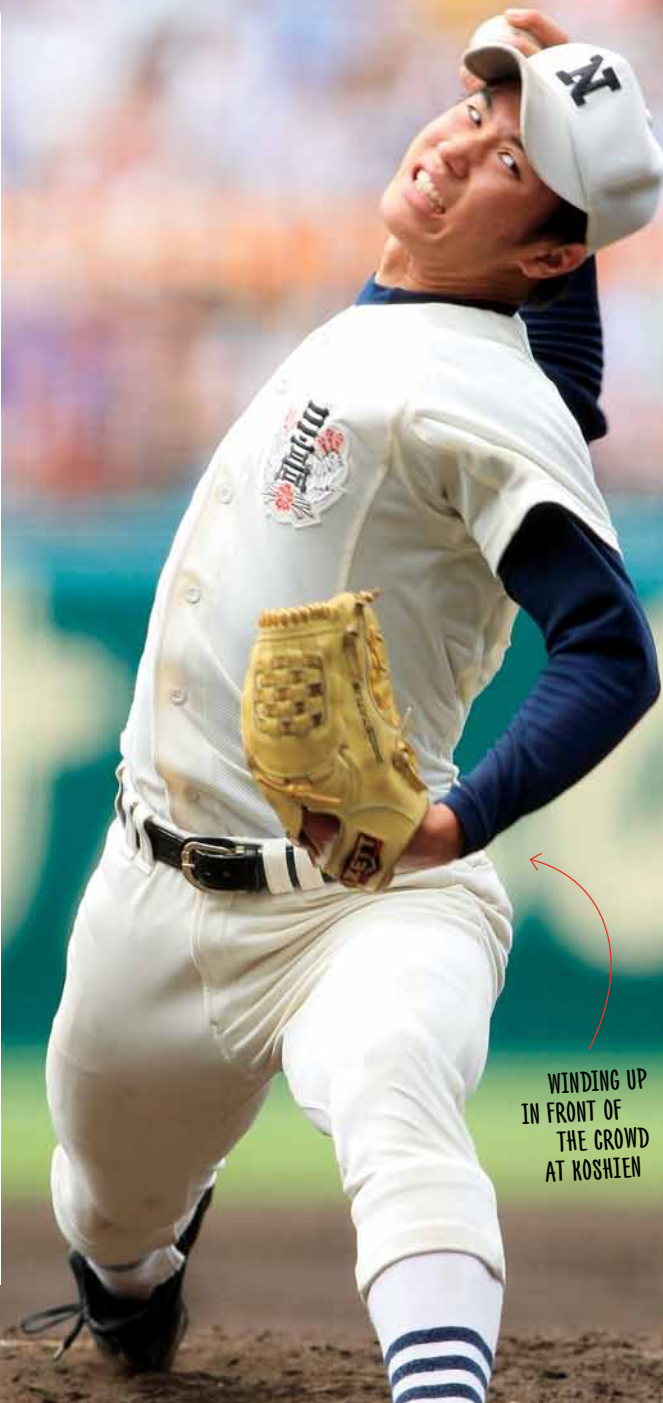
GRAND STANDS

When I tell Osaka locals I'm going to a baseball game, the reaction is unanimous. "Oh, you'll have fun at Koshien," they all say with knowing smiles. "The fans are crazy!"

Koshien is Japan's oldest baseball stadium and the home field of the Hanshin Tigers, a Nippon Professional Baseball team. The stadium is in Nishinomiya, a short train ride from Kobe and Osaka, but the scene feels like home to any baseball fan: spring sunlight on the grass, balls thumping the dirt during batting practice.

The fans don't look crazy—until the first Tigers batter steps up to the plate and almost all 47,000 of them break out into song. Even the elderly couple next to me has a set of Tigers-themed cheer sticks and whacks them in time to the music.

The enthusiasm is so infectious I start humming the tunes on the train back to Osaka. I guess I'm a fan now, too. —Kristen Koch



WINDING UP
IN FRONT OF
THE CROWD
AT KOSHIE

PHOTOGRAPHY AFLO CO., LTD./ALAMY



NISHINOMIYA
JAPAN

LOCATION

34.7376° N 490,000
135.3416° E

POPULATION

DID YOU KNOW?

Koshien was built in 1924 to host Japan's national school baseball tournament. High schoolers still play there every August (as seen above).

MILESTONE

a bug's life

A look back at the beloved Beetle before Volkswagen wraps production this July —*Matthew Guy*

Volkswagen's rounded little runabout drove the peace-love-joy movement of the 1960s. Small and efficient, it was there for drivers when fuel prices skyrocketed in the 1970s. But it was a short-lived affair; the original rear-engine model left Canadian showrooms in 1979.

Flash forward to 1998, when VW introduced the New Beetle, with an engine in front and a 21st-century-ready design. But it, too, was short-lived; VW announced that production of the Beetle will cease in summer 2019 due to market shifts. Is it gone forever? Volkswagen of America boss Hinrich Woebcken says "Never say never," hinting that the Beetle could return (again) someday. In the meantime, here's a look at its life—so far.



1952

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The first Beetles, which came to Canada in 1952, didn't have traditional turn signals. Instead, they used semaphores swinging out of the door pillars.

THE '60s & '70s

PEAK OF POPULARITY

Spurred by clever ads, the Bug enjoyed massive sales. In 1972, the Beetle officially overtook the Ford Model T as the world's bestselling car.



1998

NEW LOOK

Capitalizing on nostalgia, the New Beetle sold well to aging hippies and urban commuters alike

2019

FINAL EDITION

Fans can get one last fix in a convertible or hardtop whose paint colours pay tribute to past Beetles

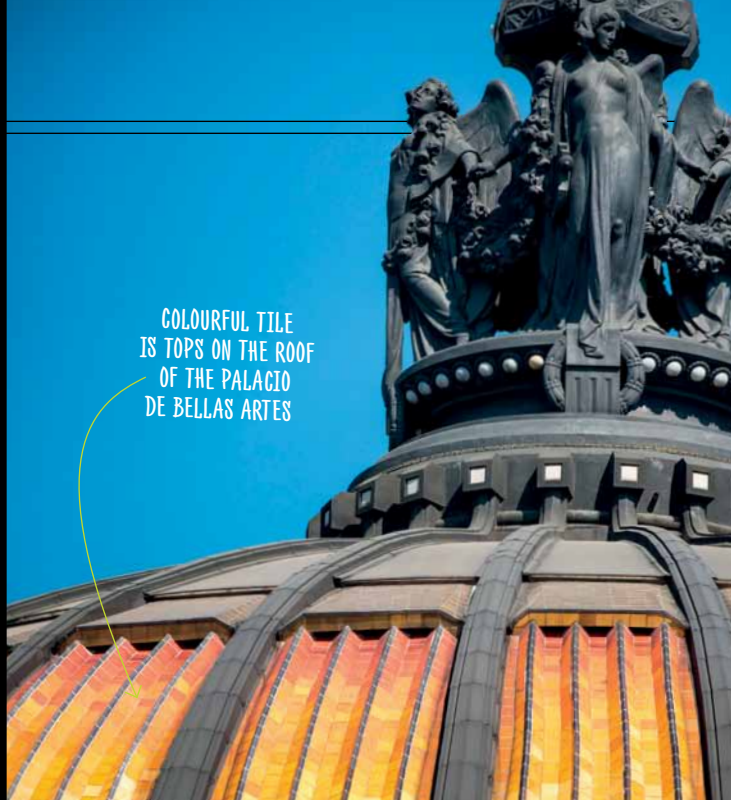


DESIGN

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Deck out kids' cycles with a cool bike-light kit that's also a perfect weekend STEM project. The **Light Racer Kit** from Tech Will Save Us lets junior makers ages eight and up assemble their own lightning-bolt-shaped electromagnetic wheel lights that will flash as they ride. A simple online manual takes them through circuits and wireless waves, plus your mini-engineer will also get access to Club Make, a free online hub for coding, building and inventing.

—*Leah Rumack*



COLOURFUL TILE
IS TOPS ON THE ROOF
OF THE PALACIO
DE BELLAS ARTES

DESTINATION

IN THE MEX

Chic, cosmopolitan, cultured—Mexico City is a patchwork of superlatives. Don't miss these three must-visit areas of the sprawling capital city. —Beverley Ann D'Cruz

Centro Histórico

With the sacred Templo Mayor pyramid at its heart, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has roots that run deep. Get a history lesson at the Palacio Nacional from **Diego Rivera's iconic murals** before a stop at La Casa de los Azulejos (House of Tiles), a quick walk away. Architectural flourishes are aplenty here, from the art nouveau **Palacio de Bellas Artes** to the gilded Palacio de Correos de México, the main post office, which is free to explore.



Roma Norte

Attain ultimate live-like-a-local status in this trendy neighbourhood that has everything: quiet cafés, art galleries, boutiques and more. As you wander canopied streets lined with old-school mansions and picture-worthy graffiti, you'll be rewarded with warm smiles from stylish residents. Like fashion, food is taken seriously here, and is best explored via the tasting menu at **Máximo Bistrot**, lauded as one of the continent's top tables.



Xochimilco

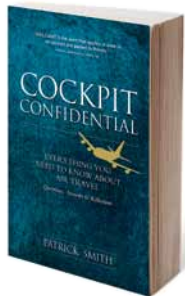
A trip down the canals of Xochimilco, a mini-Venice within the city, is a beloved local activity with a dash of tourist kitsch. Board a colourful **trajinera** (flat-bottomed boat), and fiesta mode will kick in as you hear the music and chatter of fellow revellers. Hungry? Flag down one of the vendors selling potato-like slices of boiled chayote and corn smothered with **cotija** cheese and chili powder. End on a high note with a serenade from a cruising mariachi band.



READING LIST

This Is Your Captain Speaking

Pilot Patrick Smith gives the plain truth about air travel in a new book —*Paul Ferriss*



Airline pilot Patrick Smith took his first flying lesson at age 14 and, years later, he still hasn't lost his appreciation for the wonders of flight. Or his desire to share that appreciation with others. Since 2002, Smith has been answering questions about air travel for Salon, on his Ask the Pilot blog and in his book, *Cockpit Confidential—Everything You Need to Know About Air Travel*. Here are five takeaways from Smith's book and our interview with him.

1. It's possible one of the (many) reasons airlines ask you to put devices in airplane mode is to avoid having hundreds of passengers chatting on their phones in a small space.
2. "You've been gliding many times without knowing it." Many jets descend with the engines at what's called flight idle: they're still on, but not providing any push.
3. A runway doesn't have to be vacant before a flight is cleared to land on it. "Flights are given landing clearance all the time with other planes still on the strip. If the runway is not vacant in time, air traffic control will cancel the clearance and have you go around."
4. One of the most common questions Smith gets is from frequent fliers who worry they're hearing a "barking dog" as they taxi. It's actually the power transfer unit in certain Airbus planes, which helps provide hydraulic power if one engine is shut down while on the ground.
5. The future of air travel? "There's a lot of focus on the viability of the low-cost, long-haul model," but the success of these fast-growing carriers depends on fuel prices, among other things.

ASK AN EXPERT

SHOP TALK



CAA auto expert Michael Schmidt answers your questions

I recently bought a new metallic black sedan. I always washed my old car by hand using dishwashing liquid. Should I continue to use it on my new car?

Min Raber

A: Dish soap has abrasives that are great at removing grime, grease and dirt. But when used regularly to wash a vehicle, it can accelerate the oxidation process. Over time, dish soap removes the protective clear coat, which is what makes your car shine on sunny spring days, so you could be left with a dull finish.

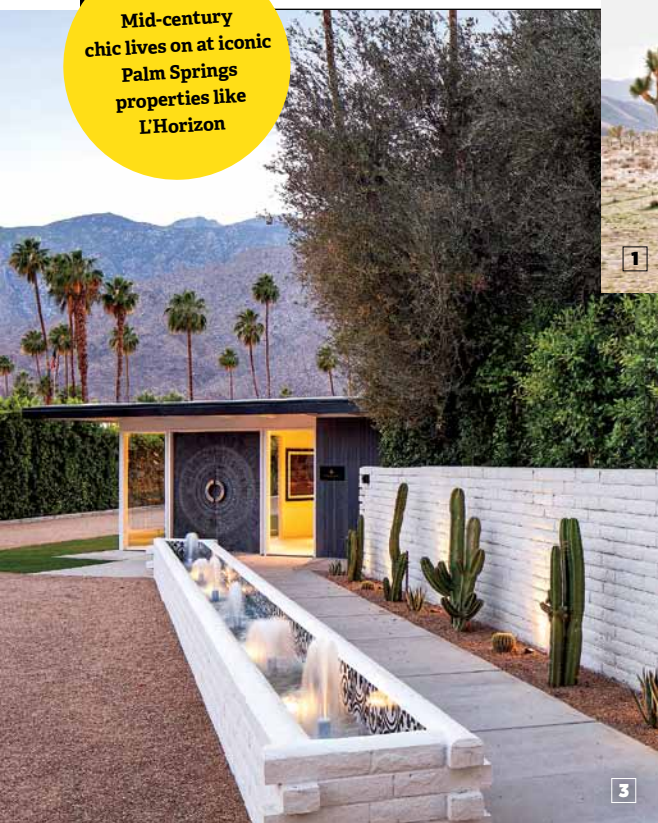
To protect the paint, use a dedicated car-wash product. These are milder than dish detergents and specifically designed for use on automotive paint.

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Mid-century
chic lives on at iconic
Palm Springs
properties like
L'Horizon



1. Spot desert flora in daytime and constellations at night in Joshua Tree National Park. **2.** The spa at the Colony Palms Hotel. **3.** L'Horizon has hosted producers, presidents and Marilyn Monroe. **4.** Sean Connery as James Bond on the Palm Springs set of *Diamonds Are Forever*. **5.** Bond's fight scene ended in the pool at Elrod House. **6.** Enjoy the views from Cary Grant's former guest house at Copley's on Palm Canyon.

PACK YOUR COOLEST
OUTFITS FOR A STAY
IN THE DESERT—
JUST LIKE BOND!

SPOTLIGHT ON: PALM SPRINGS

stars' trek

PALM SPRINGS SURE CAN PARTY.

Once the favoured destination for the Rat Pack, this oasis city in California's Sonoran Desert is embracing a new generation of fun-seekers. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Coachella Valley Music and Art Festival, a cultural centrepiece that attracts performers from Beyoncé to Drake.

The city has always had style, too, thanks to desert modernist architects like John Lautner, who transformed streetscapes with perforated brick and cactus gardens. At the Palm Springs Visitor's Center, pick up a map of mid-century landmarks and find standouts like Lautner's Elrod House, which resembles a UFO and was featured in the James Bond film *Diamonds Are Forever*, and the Albert Frey House II, in which a boulder divides the bedroom from the living room.

Even the hotels—where you'll find many of the city's best restaurants—are the stuff of legend. L'Horizon was originally a producer's private residence; the Colonial House, now the Colony Palms Hotel, was owned by Al Wertheimer, a bootlegger and member of the (not-so-tough-sounding) Purple Gang. Seek out Copley's on Palm Canyon, located in Cary Grant's former guest house, for the delicious Australian barramundi with crab and green onion salad.

In Joshua Tree National Park, about an hour away, rock promontories and the namesake trees create a surreal, Dr. Seuss-ian landscape. Hike the Barker Dam Nature Trail loop to a clear lake to spot coyotes. Or head to Arch Rock Trail at sunset, when you can photograph the massive crescent of rock against a starlit desert sky.

—Adam McCulloch

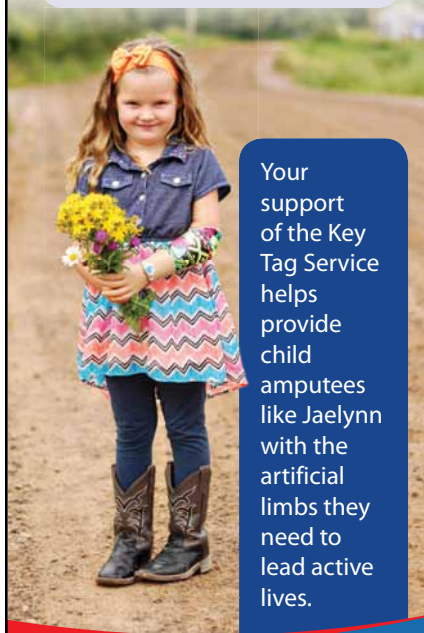
Did You Know?

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“I lost my car keys and inquired about getting a new set – nearly \$400 to replace! Just received them back by courier from The War Amps, free of charge, thanks to my key tag. What a service!”

– Marilyn



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compass

CULTURE

HIGH TEA

Sipping a single-origin Sri Lankan brew is a tea-drinking experience like no other –*Corrina Allen*



Taking leaves: harvesting tea in the Nuwara Eliya area of Sri Lanka

VISITING SRI LANKA'S NUWARA ELIYA REGION,

you'll travel narrow roads through mountains still misty at midday. Leafy plants line hillsides, emanating a heady aroma. It's tea—but not the kind you'll find at the grocery store. A cup of *this* tea has a distinct, earthy flavour that's sharpened, like a single perfect note instead of a chord.

The country changed its name to Sri Lanka in 1972, but its tea is still known by its former moniker, Ceylon. Mature leaves are dried to make black tea, which Sri Lankans take with milk and palm sugar; younger leaves are harvested for green and white teas.

Tea purchased elsewhere is typically a mix of leaves from unspecified origins. Buy from an estate here, though, and you're getting a single-origin tea grown at 1,900 metres above sea level. It's like a fine wine: you can taste the terroir.



GETTING SINGLE-ORIGIN FLAVOUR—WHEREVER YOU ARE

If Sri Lanka is too far to go, elevate your next cup by filtering the water before brewing, says tea expert Eliot Gilbert.

“As for the leaves, buy from dealers who have direct relationships with farmers. The fewer steps from farm to cup, the better.”