

# BEEN AROUND THE WORLD

*Humanitarian and Obakki Foundation founder Treana Peake's global hot spots for leisure time with the family. By Shawna Cohen*

**W**hen Treana Peake was a child, an unmarked envelope with money would appear, every year at Christmastime, underneath the front door of her family's home. "I remember my mom being touched by it because the money would help us get through the year," recalls Peake, who grew up an only child, with her mother and grandparents in a one-bedroom house in Hanna, Alberta. "I thought, Who is this person willing to do such a thing without any praise, recognition or thanks?"

That act of kindness has a ripple effect. Peake, now 49, has devoted her life to paying it forward, in large part through the Obakki Foundation, which she founded in 2009 and which, to date, has helped more than four million people. The non-profit focuses on providing clean water, education, sustainable agriculture and medical care to vulnerable communities worldwide, including Mexico and Africa, the latter having been visited by Peake more than 70 times.

Obakki was launched in 2005 as a sustainable fashion label in Vancouver, where Peake lives with her husband, Ryan Peake, of rock band Nickelback fame, and their children — Dax, 19, and Acadia, 17. It has since evolved into a luxe homeware line of one-of-a-kind finds from artisans in 11 countries — ranging from rustic earthenware crafted in northern Uganda to specialty floral candles hand-poured in a tiny studio in Chiapas, Mexico. The Obakki Foundation serves as the brand's philanthropic arm, ensuring that 100 percent of net profits go back into its charitable initiatives.

"There's nothing better than when we hear from a partner," says Peake. "One lady in Uganda suffered an immense trauma and didn't leave her house for years. She started sewing bags at home, almost as a form of therapy." The bags were recently picked up by New York's Museum of Modern Art.



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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: Treana Peake pays it forward over and over again with her fashion label and the Obakki Foundation which has helped over four million individuals since its inception in 2009.

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01

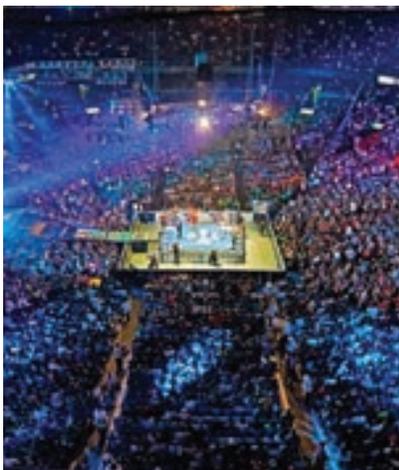
## EL FENN

“I feel like I’ve got constant adrenaline going through my body when I’m [in Marrakech],” says Peake. A stroll through Jemaa el-Fna is a must, she notes, as this public square is alive with storytellers, healers, snake charmers, entertainers and traders. She recently stayed at El Fenn, a chic 28-room boutique hotel in the city’s bustling medina. The décor — jewel-toned tiles, bold colours, local artwork — is what appeals to Peake the most. *Derb Moullay Abdullah Ben Hussain, Bab El Ksour, medina, Marrakech; el-fenn.com*

02

## LUCHA LIBRE

A frequent visitor to Mexico, Peake lists the country’s capital as one of her top destinations for its vibrancy and colour. Her family’s favourite activity in Mexico City is to catch a wrestling match — *lucha libre* — at the coliseum. “It’s like a theatrical performance. There’s so much humour to it. It’s a bit kitschy but fully embraced by the locals. I just love that energy, when you’re sitting in a stadium and you’ve got grandmas throwing things at the stage and kids laughing. It’s that family connection.” *Arena Coliseo, República de Perú 77, Centro Histórico, Mexico City*



03

## HARAJUKI GYOZARO

“I find the culture so refined, yet quirky,” Peake says of Tokyo, where she has spent time. She raves about Nonbei Yokochō (Drunkards’ Alley), an off-the-beaten-path find in the city’s Shibuya area. “It’s the ultimate escape. . . . You’re out of your element, nothing you see or hear or smell is familiar — that’s when you’re really travelling.” Peake’s top food stops include Harajuki Gyoza, a little hole in the wall in the back streets of the Aoyama district. “Go for an ice-cold beer and gyoza made in front of you.” *6-2-4 Jingumae, Shibuya, Tokyo; harajukugyoza.com*

04

## WICKANINNISH SPA

With careers that demand so much travel, Peake and her husband seek out quiet when they’re together, and Tofino has become their go-to. “It’s truly one of the most magical places,” says Peake. “There’s just that raw, rugged West Coast nature, where the waves come crashing in. It’s always rainy or foggy or misty.” Peake loves to cook, which is why she usually heads down to the wharf to purchase the catch of the day: “I love to gather fresh ingredients and cook over a wood-burning stove.” For oceanside pampering, she recommends the spa at Wickaninnish Inn. *500 Osprey Lane, Tofino, B.C.; wickinn.com*

