

The New York Times

Tour and Resort News: Tennis in Florida; Paddleboards in Africa

OCT. 9, 2015

By ELAINE GLUSAC



Favelas in Rio de Janeiro. Context Travel

GRAND SLAM COURTS AT A FLORIDA RESORT

With a renovation of its tennis club, Fisher Island Club Hotel & Resort off the tip of Miami Beach has added two red clay courts to become one of the rare resorts to offer all four of tennis's Grand Slam playing surfaces. Its 18 courts include hard courts such as those used in the U.S. Open and Australian Open, grass courts as found at the Wimbledon tournament, the new clay courts used at the annual French Open and additional green clay courts. Guests can book court time on the surface of their choice (from \$17 per person, per day). Rooms start at \$575 in October and at \$1,100 beginning in November.

PADDLEBOARD SAFARIS IN AFRICA

The tour company Black Tomato has just introduced a unique safari adventure: wildlife-watching from atop a stand-up paddleboard. Its new Botswana itinerary offers travelers the opportunity to paddleboard through the Okavango Delta over three days. Travelers will get the chance to brush up before arriving in the delta with practice paddles in Cape Town, and the 10-day tour includes traditional safaris by off-road vehicle as well as on foot, in a helicopter and by water. Rates start at \$12,356, including airfare from New York.

GLAMPING IN NAPA VALLEY

The upscale mobile camp TerraVelo Tours will set down roots in wine country this winter. From mid-November through January, the company will erect its nine deluxe safari-style tents on the grounds of Pope Valley Winery, offering four- and five-day trips focused on food and wine. The four-day Napa Weekend Escape (\$1,850 per person) includes a wine tasting class, truffle hunting, astronomer-led stargazing, pasta-making, wine-blending and gourmet meals, plus hiking and biking to work them off. Five-day offers (\$2,250 per person) take place over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's and add a day of holiday feasting.

WALKING TOURS OF RIO'S FAVELAS

The walking tour company Context Travel has introduced an itinerary that takes in several favelas, or slums, in Rio de Janeiro. The three-hour walk, led by a favela-based urbanist, begins in Complexo do Alemão, one of the largest slums in Rio, introducing guests to local vendors and an exhibit on the history of the area. It continues in Mangueira, a so-called "pacified" favela near the Maracanã stadium where anti-gang police action decreased violence leading up to last year's FIFA World Cup matches. The tour winds up at Estrela da Favela, a Dutch/Brazilian nongovernmental organization that offers before- and after-school programs and teaches healthy eating via its school garden. The tour costs 250 reais, about \$67, and includes a \$25 donation to the garden, matched by Context Travel.

ADVENTURE ON THE BRIDGE IN WEST VIRGINIA

In an annual tradition, Bridge Day in West Virginia's southern Fayette County offers recreational access to the 876-foot-tall New River Gorge Bridge. Coming Oct. 17, the event will close the bridge to motorized traffic for six hours of bridge walking, rappelling and BASE jumping. On average 400 jumpers take the leap each year, many of them first-timers (untrained jumpers must take a one-day jump primer class). The 1,500-acre Ace Adventure Resort nearby is offering Bridge Day packages that include rafting trips on the Gauley and New Rivers and overnights starting at \$99 per person.