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PLUS

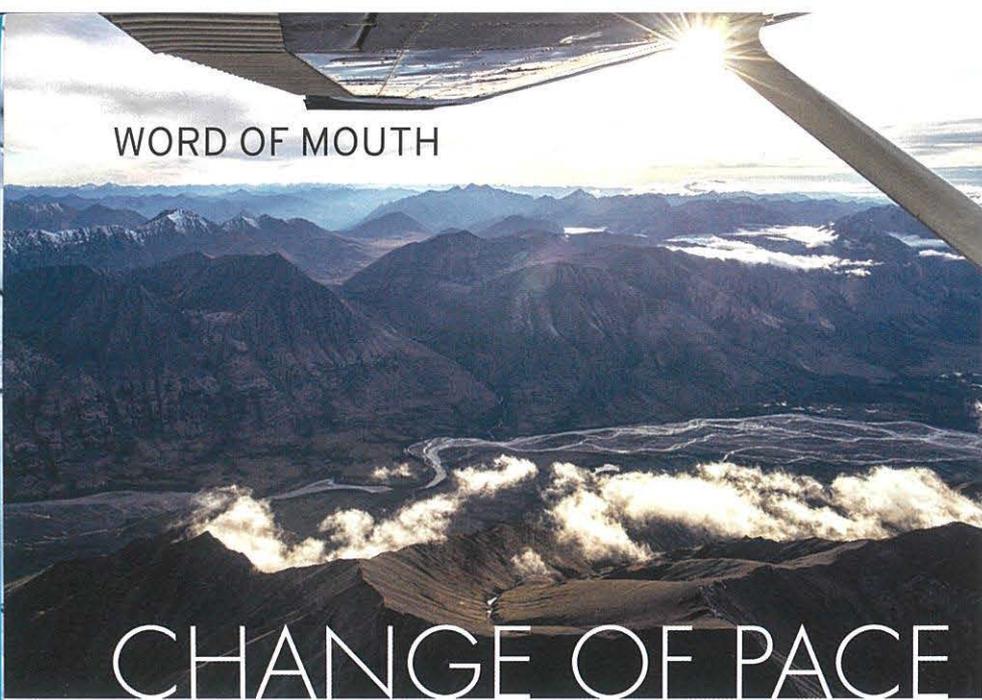
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WORD OF MOUTH



CHANGE OF PACE

HOW CANADA'S FIRST NATIONS NARRATIVE IS BEING RETOLD THROUGH A FLURRY OF FRESH ADVENTURES

Time was, if you came to Canada with a desire to connect with First Nations indigenous culture, you'd have to make do with thunderbird totems in Vancouver's Stanley Park or rock-carved petroglyphs between Toronto and Ottawa. A lucky few might have planned a trip to Haida Gwaii, the talon-shaped archipelago off the British Columbia coast that's the spiritual home to the Haida Nation. Now, though, the country's 634 First Nation communities – representing 1.7 million people and 50 languages – are increasingly sharing their rich, millennia-old histories with all comers. 'Our stories have never been properly heard,' says Bobbi Rose Koe, who last year launched her own intrepid outfitting company, Dinjii Zhuh Adventures (meaning 'one who dwells'), to take visitors into the Yukon's Peel River watershed. It's one of North America's last remaining wildernesses, in the empty north-west near the Alaskan border. 'Half my heart is caribou and the other is Teet'it Gwich'in,' she says. 'I want to foster stronger relationships between people and the land I grew up on.'

Similar bridge-building is taking place right across the Great White North. Later this year, the Songhees Nation is launching a 12-stop marine trail in Victoria on Vancouver Island in homage to its native Lekwungen culture. And farther up the Pacific coast, the Klahoose Nation has recently taken ownership of off-grid Klahoose Wilderness Resort, a meditative waterfront camp where there is a surplus of grizzlies and orca. Even the enduring Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge near the bohemian surf town of Tofino is tracking the changes: cue a refit of safari-style guest tents with Tlaoquiaht First Nation bentwood boxes and bowls. As Canada looks to its pre-settler past for its future, this reconciles with what the First Nations call *etuaptmumk*, or 'two-eyed seeing'. MIKE MACEACHERAN



From top: mountains in the Yukon; Klahoose Wilderness Resort; dolphin spotting nearby



WHAT'S TOUCHING DOWN AND WHAT'S PACKING UP

✂ ARRIVALS

HERITAGE STAYS

UNESCO World Heritage sites have never been known for sharp stays. But this April, Il San Corrado di Noto opens in a restored 18th-century masseria in Sicily's protected Val di Noto region, formed of eight baroque towns. Later in the year, the Casa Chablé eco-resort will open in the Sian Ka'an biosphere reserve south of Tulum.

REALLY BIG QUESTIONS

Pairing travel with mental transformation isn't new, but few go as far as Mind Environment. Led by a City-gnarled team of leadership consultants and executive coaches, the new outfit runs outdoorsy retreats in places such as Bardou, a 17th-century French village, which address the deep stuff like, who are we, and what's the meaning of life?

A HEAVENLY HIKE

The historic Trans Bhutan Trail, a 250-mile route once used by pilgrims, messengers and traders, has reopened for the first time in 60 years. Running the length of the country from Haa in the west to Trashigang in the east, it winds through jaw-dropping forest and passes by more than 200 sacred sites.

✂ DEPARTURES

EUROPEAN TRAFFIC JAMS

Paris has led the way with pedestrian-friendly plazas and a traffic-free stretch of the Right Bank. Now, Berliners are pushing to ban cars from the centre and Milan is teeing up a network of super-cycle corridors by 2035.

VIENNESE ATROPHY

As much as we love Vienna's old-school coffee shops, it's possible to elegantly update the formula. Witness Café Bellaria, a bohemian haunt since 1870, where the dark wood and chandeliers have been replaced by squiggly lights and a stone bar.

CHILLY MINIMALISM

The latest buzzword is 'grandmillennial', aka 'granny chic', a post-Covid hashtag of 30-somethings mining their grandparents' design style for velvet and kitsch. There are more than 14,000 Airbnbs now tagged with the term. Good taste is optional. EL/TS