

# TRAVEL

LUXURY  
EDITION

/ P R O F E S S I O N A L /

**WHERE  
TO GO**

& who to  
book with

10 Reasons  
To Book

**THE COSMOPOLITAN  
OF LAS VEGAS**

**LIVING IN  
LUXURY**

Hotels that  
impress

**PLUS**

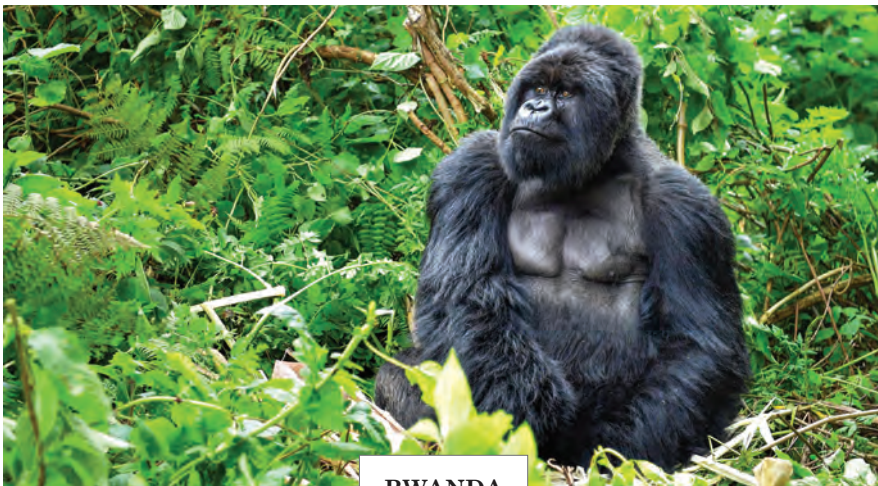
Onboard the

**SILVER**  
Spirit

travelweek  
NOVEMBER 2018

# Top 5 Captivating Destinations in 2019

Red Savannah, the award-winning luxury travel company, lists the ultimate destinations clients should have on their lists next year



**RWANDA**

With the new 10-day 'Big Five & Gorillas in Rwanda' itinerary, guests can stay in one of six spacious tents and enjoy guided game drives, walks and boating. They'll also come face to face with mountain gorillas in the Virunga Mountains. Rates start at US\$11,248 per person, double.



## **NAMIBIA**

Brand new premium lodges complement incredible safari experiences in Namibia. The 11-day 'Skeleton Coast Safari' includes a stay at Omaanda, a new lodge by Zannier Hotels featuring 10 thatched rooms, a spa and infinity pool. Guests will



## **PANTANAL, BRAZIL**

New in Brazil, Red Savannah clients now have the option to embark on Peralta, the first luxury expedition boat in Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland. Other highlights include nocturnal walks and canoeing in the Amazon, and a



## **AGRA, INDIA**

After a year of restoration to combat pollution, the dome of the Taj Mahal will be uncovered in early 2019. The 12-day 'Delhi, Agra & Rajasthan in Style' itinerary includes a sunset tour of this iconic site, plus visits to Amber Palace in Jaipur and the bazaars of



## **ZIMBABWE**

Red Savannah's new 'Waterways of Zimbabwe' itinerary includes a bit of everything, from Victoria Falls and canoeing down the Zambezi River, to fishing in Lake Kariba and a stay at Bumi Hills Safari Lodge, where each room's balcony overlooks Lake Kariba.

## *Three new ships coming to Silversea fleet*

Following its blockbuster acquisition of Silversea Cruises in summer 2018, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. has announced that it will be building three new ships for the luxury line, coming as early as 2020. Silversea has signed a memorandum of understanding with German shipbuilder Meyer Werft to build two new vessels in a new 'Evolution Class'. The first Evolution-class ship is expected to deliver in 2022. Silversea has also signed a contract with Dutch shipbuilder Shipyard De Hoop to build a brand new expedition vessel named Silver Origin, which will serve the Galapagos Islands itinerary currently sailed by Silver Galapagos. Silver Origin is set for delivery in March 2020.

[silversea.com](http://silversea.com)

## *Riding in luxury in Peru with Gateways International*

Little luxuries can be enjoyed at every turn while on Gateways International Tailor-Made Tours' 10-day 'Luxury Peru by Belmond' itinerary. Visiting Lima, Arequipa, Cuzco, Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu, this journey includes everything from a ride aboard the ultra-luxe Belmond Andean Explorer to an exclusive stay at the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge. Guests will also visit the Golden Temple of Korikancha in Cuzco and the colossal fortress of Sacsayhuaman, and explore the diverse islands of Lake Titicaca, including Taquile Island where they'll enjoy lunch and watch a local dance performance.

Priced from \$9,315 per person, double occupancy, this tour includes domestic airfare between cities, welcome assistance upon arrival and departure at all airports, private transfers and portage, nine nights' accommodation, breakfast daily and other meals as indicated, hotel taxes and service charges, and airport and departure taxes.

[gateways-international.com](http://gateways-international.com)

For more information go to [redsavannah.com](http://redsavannah.com)

The

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SILVER

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Standard

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Recently split in half and lengthened, Silversea’s Silver Spirit is longer, lovelier and more luxurious than ever

By Cindy Sosroutomo

**Y**ou can do a lot with 49 feet. You can scale the letters of the iconic Hollywood sign, walk the entire length of a bowling lane, and even climb a telephone pole. Or, if you’re Silversea Cruises, you can split an entire cruise ship in half and lengthen it right down the middle.

Sounds absurd, I know, but I assure you that it’s very much possible. I saw the finished product with my own eyes while on a recent trip to Quebec City, where the newly lengthened Silver Spirit arrived on its shores for the very first time. It loomed above the St. Lawrence River, majestic and regal in appearance while docked at the Port of Québec, looking far younger than its nine years. It’s essentially a brand new ship following the insertion of a 49-foot, pre-built section and subsequent renovations, and I was lucky enough to step aboard for a behind-the-scenes tour.

While walking up the gangway, it was obvious at first glance that the Spirit is a true beauty – it was even before its lengthening, which took place during a 59-day dry dock in Italy in May 2018. In the central lobby, with its sumptuous carpeting and serene neutral colours, it’s hard to imagine a total of 10 decks being cut in half and separated, a process that required nearly 1,000 workers, 450,000 man hours, 90,000 metres of cables and 3,700 metres of pipe. It was a massive undertaking, to say the least. And although the Spirit isn’t the first ship to be split and lengthened (that distinction



All ship photos courtesy Silversea

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goes to the cargo ship Ville D’Anvers in 1980), it is the very first luxury cruise ship to undergo such an engineering feat.

Silversea didn’t stop at just the lengthening either – it put the Silver

1. Dolce Vita; 2. Pool deck.

## It’s essentially a brand new ship following the insertion of a 49-foot, pre-built section and subsequent renovations.

Spirit through a top-to-bottom renovation, or ‘Museification’, if you will, a fleet-wide renovation program inspired by Silversea’s latest ship, the Silver Muse. I never saw the Spirit prior to its enhancements, but I was told that everything onboard looks

## BANKING ON BOUTIQUE

While staying in Quebec City, I found myself checking into the bank. Yes, the bank. Hôtel 71, voted one of the Top Hotels in Canada by Condé Nast Traveler in 2018, is located in the National Bank of Canada's first head office, a stunning 19th-century, neo-classic building.



Hotel photos courtesy of Hotel 71

Family-owned and stylishly run, the boutique hotel boasts 60 rooms and suites with 14-foot high ceilings, sweeping views of the St. Lawrence River, an on-site Italian restaurant, a 24/7 espresso lounge, bellhop service, fitness centre, a wine and spirits dispenser, meeting rooms and a complimentary porter to the nearby cruise terminal.



But the hotel's best feature? Its location. Step out the door and you're instantly in the heart of old Quebec City, with the Musée de la Civilisation located just next door and the iconic Rue du Petit-Champlain – regarded as the most beautiful street in Canada – a mere five-minute walk away.

**Hotel71.ca**

lighter and brighter. Walls are a calming cream colour, lighting is soft and subtle, wood trimmings are rich and honey-warm, and silver accents give each room just enough of a modern flair without alienating Silversea's typically older clientele.

Brand new is the Arts Café, which has already become one of the Spirit's most popular dining venues. Featuring a dazzling array of bite-sized delicacies ranging from jewel-coloured macarons to Caesar salad in a jar, the cozy space is where you can kick back in velvet armchairs with a newspaper and double espresso.

Also new is the Zagara Spa, a state-of-the-art sanctuary featuring jaw-dropping, floor-to-ceiling views, heated loungers, a sauna, steam room, whirlpool and several treatment rooms where one can easily laze away the days with facials, body wraps and heavenly massages. Here is where you'll find the most blissed-out passengers, not that they needed much bliss in the first place since the entire ship looks and feels like a floating high-end spa.

You see it in the deep red fabric of Atlantide Restaurant's wingback chairs, the marbled columns in Silver Note Restaurant, and the gloriously lit ceiling of Dolce Vita, considered the central heart of the ship where guests become friends over

cocktails and the lilting sounds of a live pianist. In the restaurant Indochine, your eyes will linger over dramatic back-lit walls, while in the Panorama Lounge, your limbs will sink into luxe-looking, cream-coloured leather seats grouped in intimate twos and fours that allow for plenty of conversation amid the beats of the ship's resident DJ.

You also see indulgent details on the pool deck, which was increased in size to allow more space for guests to lounge poolside and enjoy light snacks at tables. Modern lounge chairs sit in neat rows around the pool just like at any five-star resort on land, and attentive staff dressed in crisp-looking uniforms stand at the ready, waiting to offer every known cocktail under the sun.

It's also here on the pool deck, with all its open-air spaciousness, where you get the full scope of the ship's lengthening. Actually pacing out the 49 feet from one end of the pool to another gave me a much better idea of the magnitude of it all; what Silversea has accomplished is nothing short of extraordinary.

But perhaps where you'll find the best example of the cruise line's penchant for luxury living is in the Spirit's suites. As part of the Spirit's Museification, 26 additional Veranda suites were added, as well as two extra Panorama suites, while top





**It will be the epitome of luxury sailing...a voyage that will likely surpass all others taken before it.**


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suites received all-new, handmade Savoir mattresses. Each suite is understated and tastefully done, with honey-toned wood panelling, taupe-coloured walls, vibrant pops of coloured accents, and new state-of-the-art technology and interactive HD screens in line with those found on the Silver Muse. But the surest sign of ‘suite’ luxury? The carpeting. Nothing says luxury like sinking into the floor

Walking around onboard, the word ‘spacious’ (in addition to ‘luxurious’) immediately comes to mind. You’ll never be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow passengers; with one of the highest space-to-guest ratios in the industry and a guest capacity of just 608, the Silver Spirit gives you more than enough room to stretch out and simply wander, a luxury not usually found on mass-market ships.

And wander you will, from bow to stern, across a total of 210.7 metres (up from 195.8 metres), through eight restaurants (up from six), along three new aft awnings, into the brand new fitness centre,

past the casino, down the rows of seating in the Venetian Lounge, around the high-end boutique before most likely ending up at Tor’s Observation Library, situated at the very top of the ship and named after Torstein Hagen, Chairman of Viking Cruises and close friend of Silversea’s Chairman, Manfredi Lefebvre d’Ovidio. Here, at the ship’s highest point, being on top of the world isn’t just a saying, it’s an actual dream come true.

I left the Silver Spirit wishing that I could’ve stayed longer, which according to all travel companies is the telltale sign of a successful trip. Although Canadians won’t be able to enjoy the ship on their home turf anytime soon (the Spirit isn’t scheduled to return to Canada in 2019), they can book one of its scheduled itineraries to the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. It will be the epitome of luxury sailing for many of them, a voyage that will likely surpass all others taken before it. Because, after all, with an additional 49 feet, there’s now more room to live in the lap of luxury. 

3. Ship lengthening; 4. Silver Spirit leaving the yard