

TRAVEL

UTAH

THE STAY

There is no shortage of places to stay in Park City, which has more than 10,000 units and rooms to choose from. We got cozy in a three-bedroom town home managed by ResortsWest (resortswest.com), which has more than 150 properties ranging from luxurious condominiums to multimillion-dollar mountain homes.

WANT TO DITCH THE KIDS?

Park City doesn't fall short on options for safe and reliable child care. Drop the kids off for hourly childcare at Monkey Mountain (monkeymountain.com) or have a professional sitter come to you through Park City Sitters (parkcitysitters.com).



GETTING THERE

We booked our flights on Delta — the airline offers direct service between AUS to SLC. The nonstop is definitely worth the few extra dollars, especially when traveling with young kids.



ELEVATE YOUR SPIRITS IN PARK CITY

ON- AND OFF-THE-SLOPE ADVENTURES ADD TO THE 10 REASONS TO VISIT UTAH

By Mauri Elbel

Special to the American-Statesman

Defined by its three world-class resorts that combine more than 9,000 ski-able acres, 400 trails and 65 lifts into one hard-to-rival destination, Park City draws skiers and snowboarders during the powder-cloaked winter and spring months. But here's the thing I discovered during a recent visit to this town of 7,500: Park City is a fabulous family getaway — on or off the slopes, any time of year.

Nestled in the Wasatch Mountains just a half-hour east of Salt Lake City International Airport, Park City is an amalgam of rich mining history, proud Olympic legacy, luxurious lodging, award-winning cuisine and year-round fun and adventure. Even when the ski season winds to an end and the snow melts off the mountaintops, Park City still buzzes and hums. Escape Texas' soaring summer heat in cool and cozy Park City, where temperatures average 75 degrees and these 10 on- and off-the-slope experiences await.

Park City continued on D12

Experience the mountain scape over Park City by biking your choice of more than 75 trails. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS BY PARK CITY CHAMBER



Whether mountain biking in the sunshine, enjoying a concert at Deer Valley or feeling the rush of a bobsled, there's plenty to do in Park City, Utah.



NEW ZEALAND

Up close look at North Island

Cape Kidnappers farm offers stunning views, new experiences.

By Becca Hensley

Special to the American-Statesman

Secretive. Nocturnal. Fearful. Curmudgeonly.

That doesn't sound like anybody I want to meet. And, yet, early one morning in dense woods along the headland known as Cape Kidnappers, on New Zealand's North Island, I find myself looking to hook up with an elusive date. It isn't going to be easy to find him, but I'm up for the challenge. That's why I don a sci-fi flick-worthy GPS device that beeps and murmurs as I draw closer to the mysterious rendezvous location. I stumble down steep hills and crash through undergrowth. I sink into mulchy layers of leaves. There's no prescribed path through this forest — and, wearing my red hood, I might as well be in a fairy tale. Suddenly, the beeping grows insistent. I stop, nervously, and slowly let it screech, its echoes reverberating through the trees. I've found him. Here, somewhere. What's next?

North Island continued on D11



At The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, guests can walk the resort's vast animal reserve with a scientist on a safari to find the elusive, nocturnal kiwi bird. CONTRIBUTED

VIRGINIA

Carry me back to Virginia

Charlottesville and Richmond offer history and traditional beauty.

By Michael Barnes

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A destination wedding took us back to Virginia. The ambrosial affair gave us permission to further explore the Richmond and Charlottesville regions.

First, though, the wedding. Our gorgeous niece and goddaughter, Lauren Barnes, was dashing Alex Bonetti — both University of Texas grads — at Keswick Vineyards outside of Charlottesville.

The historic Edgewood Estate rises in an impossibly beautiful valley of horse farms and old country homes. The site played small roles in the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

On a cool, clear May late afternoon, the ceremony took place against the background of rolling vineyards and the green hills beyond. Lauren and Alex wrote their own

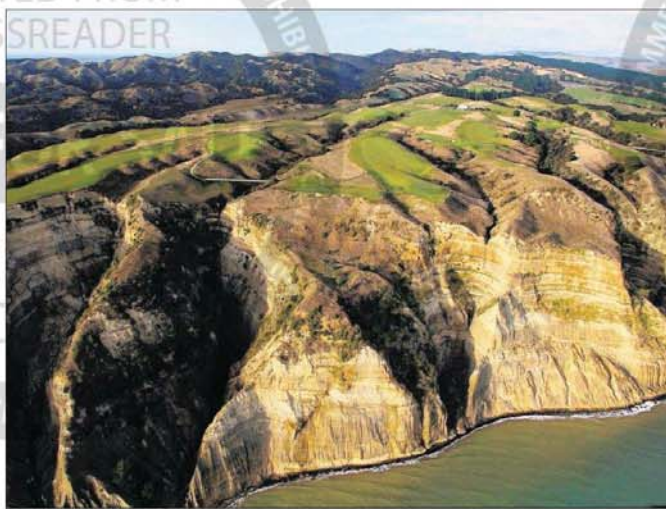
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North Island

continued from D10

Luckily, I'm not alone. A scientist removes the GPS device from my grip and puts a finger to his lips. "Shh," he says. As usual, I'm tittering. I do that when nervous. He bends down, pointing to my date's hiding place. "He's just here," he says, removing a layer of leaves from the edge of a tree trunk. Suddenly, a tiny head with a terrible mussed hairdo pops up. His aquiline nose extends for miles — or so it seems. His curious eyes gaze warily. Maybe he doesn't want to make my acquaintance after all, but by now I am smitten. The scientist scoops him up gingerly and gently thrusts him my way. I try not to giggle with glee. I've never done anything like this before. I stroke his brunette halo of hair. It feels like furry feathers. He's dense and robust, though just a young man. I want to smother him with kisses. But instead I'll feed him a grub or two. And then I will help the scientist weigh and measure him before my new fellow returns to his nest. I've just met my first kiwi bird. It was love at first sight.

A diminishing species, the kiwi bird reigns as the national bird of New Zealand. Yet most locals have never seen one outside of captivity. Evasive, unable to fly, rather anachronistic, the kiwi bird is the last of an ancient line of flightless birds (such as the moa) who evolved to fill a mammal-centric



Rated as one of the world's top golf courses, The Farm at Cape Kidnappers' design was conceived by Tom Doak to blend into the rugged, windswept terrain on New Zealand's North Island.



With cliffs, gullies and plummeting drops, this renowned course at The Farm at Cape Kidnappers occupies a sprawling headland on New Zealand's North Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

niche in mammal-free, remote New Zealand. As explorers brought predators with them on

boats, the bird populations declined. It is said that dogs alone could extinguish the entire kiwi

population if not kept in check. Decades ago kiwis were left to survive without help, which wasn't easy. But the scientific climate has their back at last. A number of protected habitats have been formed across the island nation to keep kiwi birds safe and ensure the re-emergence of their population. I meet my beloved kiwi at one of them — the reserve run by the Farm at Cape Kidnappers, a five-star Relais Chateaux resort which spreads across 6,000 acres. Also a working sheep and cattle ranch, the resort protects around 40 kiwi birds, ranging in age from 1 to 12, allowing them to be monitored, but live freely, in their natural

IF YOU GO

Travel: Consider a flight with Fiji Airways, which allows for a stopover in Fiji en route: fijilairways.com

Hotel: The Farm at Cape Kidnappers: capekidnappers.com

Tip: The hotel has a complimentary cocktail hour with canapes daily, encouraging a clubby feel among guests.

Wine: Visit Elephant Hill: elephanthill.co.nz

habitat.

A perk to guests staying at this storied, cliff-side resort, the Kiwi Discovery Walk undisputedly highlights my trip to the Hawke's Bay region of New Zealand. Though sated (possibly for life), I nevertheless take part in a number of additional transforming activities on my trip. I join a jeep safari to observe the world's largest and most accessible gannet colony. Part of The Farm at Cape Kidnappers' vast, windswept landscape, I know it by the "fowl" perfume it emanates. But within minutes I stop holding my nose and let the beauty of these birds awe me. Sized between a seagull and an albatross, gannets have gleaming butter-colored crowns and bluish feet. They honk like tentative horns in traffic. Awkward and obstreperous on land, in flight they look

like well-muscled fighter jets performing trickery at an air show. Blessed by a day of uber-birding, I toast my time with a wine tasting tour of the region — a verdant area, known as the food bowl of New Zealand, partly because it holds more than 100 vineyards and 80 wineries. I only make it to a few. My favorite, Elephant Hill, does a splendid Bordeaux-style red.

Set on otherworldly terrain that rims the Pacific Ocean, the Farm at Cape Kidnappers rolls and tumbles all the way to a jagged coastline and an unbridled sea. It soars with cliffs and undulates with an emerald-intoned patchwork of purple stone, red dirt, plump lambs, grassy carpets and ruminating cows. Wedged into rock faces, beaches, one with tutu-pink sand, provide picnic havens. Amid that, faintly evoking a sheep farmer's hut, the upscale hotel stands. Its rough-hewn wood and gray stone buildings meld into the territory. Its golf course, considered one of the best in the world, was designed by Tom Doak, lauded for his ability to incorporate nature into his vision. With cliff-tilting greens, ponderous ravines and treacherous cliff-to-cliff drives, it dazzles even the duffer in me. "Hit a ball over the edge," says a fellow golfer. "Then count. It takes 10 seconds to watch the ball drop 800 feet, all the way to the sea." I don't try it, but I do enjoy the forgiving nature of the course's vast greens.

Accuracy seems moot amid such nature.

Virginia

continued from D10

vows. Especially touching were their tributes to the rest of the wedding party. The tented reception — including jaunty toasts — added to the evening's sweet trance. Knowing my family, I'm sure there was an after party following the after party.

Before and after the wedding, I crisscrossed Charlottesville on foot. The town's signature building, Thomas Jefferson's Rotunda on the University of Virginia campus, was covered with scaffolding. Yet the famous lawn behind it was quiet and inviting, as was the rest of the fantastically landscaped school, deserted on Memorial Day weekend.

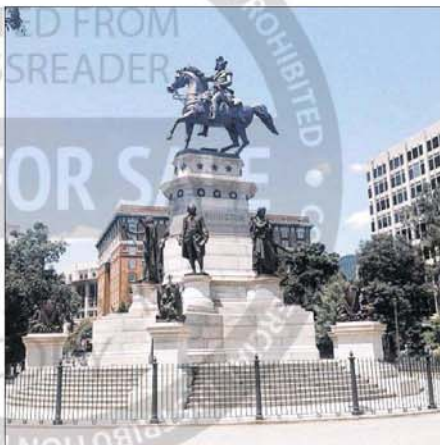
Most of my perambulations took me along a bent line from University Avenue through South and North Main streets. Here, locals have gone a long way to preserve the quirky, low-key, pedestrian-friendly charms that we formerly associated with the Drag and West Campus in Austin. Great attention — perhaps too much — is given to echoing Jefferson's tributes to Palladio and other neoclassical designers. At least here, a row of white columns does not automatically equate with dubious social status, as it does elsewhere in the South, but rather conveys a respect for learning and tradition. Enjoyed fine bites at Bodo's Bagels and World of Beer, where I got some reading done on the excellent global history, "Empire of Cotton," and caught up on The New Yorker.

On this, my third visit to this college town, I finally toured Monticello, Jefferson's mountaintop home just outside of town. A relatively new visitors center is crisply organized around shuttling guests up to the plantation home for timed tours. My sister wisely reserved tickets in advance, so we were wheeling up the incline within minutes after our arrival — others waited for hours for a slot.

Historic homes often disappoint. They give a glimpse of the times, but not of the minds of the residents. Monticello is a product of Jeffer-



The Virginia Civil Rights Monument is a powerful reminder on the Virginia State House grounds.



George Washington enjoys the place of honor on the grounds of the Virginia State House.



Former Austinites Lauren and Alex Bonetti were wed at Keswick Vineyards outside of Charlottesville, Va.

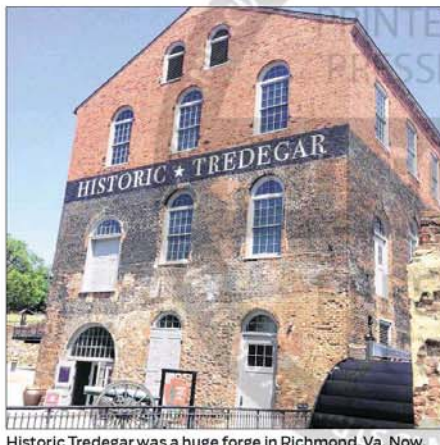
CONTRIBUTED BY KESWICK VINEYARDS

ny interests — scientific, geographic, literary, spiritual, gustatory, agricultural, aesthetic — so

ing with period decor. After the formal tour of the first, mostly public floor, we poked our noses



Jefferson's Rotunda at the University of Virginia was covered with scaffolding during our visit.



Historic Tredegar was a huge forge in Richmond, Va. Now, it's part of a Civil War museum. MICHAEL BARNES PHOTOS / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

and gardens.

On to Richmond, which I'd skimmed on briefly before. The first thing you notice is the industry that spreads out in layers from the James River. Richmond grew rapidly into an industrial power because of its placement on the fall line, which secured water power, but it continues as an industrial center. Secondly, one can't ignore Richmond's muscular downtown, which, unlike Austin's, offers powerful examples of commercial and civic architecture for each period dating back more than 200 years. It was a big city in the 20th century, too, and shows it.

Spend a little more time here and one quickly discovers the many historic neighborhoods, whose fortunes have ebbed and flowed over

closely and you'll see how students, hipsters and artists are interacting with those who stayed in place when old Richmond experienced white flight in the late 20th century. (A few examples of hipness: the New South eatery spot, Pasture, the pleasing Capital Ale House and an organic grocery in transitioning Church Hill.)

I visited seven museums and monuments on my last day. The best of them focused on local rather than regional history. The Valentine Richmond History Center, built into a row of 19th-century houses, is everything you'd want from a local history museum — smart, current, incredibly well presented, including a respectful temporary exhibit on Church Hill and a funny contest matching old

locals.

Similarly, the Historic Tredegar museum stuck to the history of Richmond-area battlefields during the Civil War. Built into the remains of the giant forges that supplied rails, munitions and other supplies for the South, it artfully explains the two big military campaigns that threatened and ultimately vanquished the former capital of the Confederacy.

Two other Civil War museums attempt too much and accomplish too little. The American Civil War Center and the Museum of the Confederacy try to tell military narratives while providing some context. The first ends up too scattered and muddled, while the second often misses the point. A temporary exhibit on the Stars and Bars, for instance, is introduced as "controversial," but sticks almost exclusively to its role as a battle flag. Interesting for its richness of period details, for sure, but virtually nothing was included on its role for more than 100 years as an unashamed symbol of white supremacy.

There's much else to see in Richmond, including Jefferson's State House, surrounded by monuments. The most prominent by far is dedicated to President George Washington; the most moving depicts the civil rights movement. Nearby is the governor's Federal-style mansion and the neo-Gothic Old City Hall. The Confederate White House is blocks away, near the Valentine and Museum of the Confederacy.

All this can be done on foot. Best to take a wheeled vehicle, though, to Monument Avenue, a grand thoroughfare that starts with familiar Confederates and ends with tennis great Arthur Ashe

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