



February, 2020

Welcome to this month's e-newsletter! Thank you for reading and for being part of the Zoom family, opening minds and hearts through travel while having an incredible time doing so.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness," Mark Twain

Cooking With Zoom

Take a trip to Morocco with this rich, exotic dish.

Moroccan Chicken and Apricot Tagine

Influenced over thousands of years by Berber, Jewish, and Arab cultures, Moroccan food is an exciting blend of spices and textures. Morocco's defining national dish is tagine and it's one of our favorite Moroccan dishes here at Zoom. The word tagine refers to the shallow clay vessel with a cone-shaped lid that the dish is traditionally cooked in, however you don't need one to make it.

While the photo to the left is of a traditional tagine used for *servicing* the dish, we use our large cast-iron dutch oven, but a cast-iron braiser would work perfectly too. Fragrant spices and dried fruits lend a Moroccan flavor to this stew inspired by the classic tagine, but this version requires no special pot. Serve over couscous accompanied by a small bowl of harissa sauce for those who like it spicy.



[Get the Recipe](#)

It's Time for Turkey, and We Don't Mean the Bird

With world-famous landmarks, gorgeous hotels, and vibrant cities, Turkey is a wonderful mix of history, culture, nature, attractions, and luxury! One can see why Turkey is the sixth most visited tourist destination in the world. And, if you love ancient structures, you will be captivated by what you find in Turkey. Istanbul's palaces and mosques are spectacularly beautiful, and few places are as enchanting as the underground cities of Cappadocia.

In terms of cuisine, Turkey is famous for kebabs and baklava, and it has so much more than this to offer, including fresh seafood and meze, myriad desserts, huge breakfast options, Ottoman classics, flavorful vegetable dishes, and much more. Turkey's wine game is also on-point, so you can always count on a special local wine to accompany your delicious meals.

Zoom Vacations' tour to Turkey will take you to some of the most notable locations within the country, while enjoying the best hotels, food, and excursions along the way. Our Zoom Signature Events also will surely not disappoint.

[Read about this trip](#)



Featured Traveler: Christopher from Chicago

Bryan's friend, Christopher really needed a vacation. So, when it came time for Bryan to do a research trip to Jordan, he asked Christopher to come along. Besides just having a great time, it became evident during the trip that Christopher had needed this vacation more than he realized, and this brought up some interesting conversations about the concept of vacationing in general.

Bryan: When was the last time you had a



vacation?

Christopher: The last time I had a vacation was 2017. I went to Maui, Hawaii for a wedding and stayed for a week.

Bryan: Ah, I love Hawaii. So how have you valued vacationing in the past?

Christopher: I have not always valued vacationing. I typically choose work over time off.

Bryan: Did the trip give you any insights into the concept of vacationing in general?

Christopher: I realized how much I needed a break to relax and unplug. I'm a workaholic by nature, but I had been feeling burnt out about a month prior to the vacation.

Bryan: Did you have any epiphanies during the trip?

Christopher: So, I'm incessantly dreaming of exploring the world more. Early in the trip, I pondered frequently about how I'd love to travel and have such cultured and lavish experiences more often. By the second day, I realized I was already living those very thoughts, which made me smile and focus on being in the moment.

Bryan: Yeah, you were really in the moment! What was the best part or highlight of the trip?

[Read on](#)

Zooming with Joel

Evidence of 2,000 Year Old Inka Ancestors Found in Peru.

We have all heard how the Spanish conquistadores landed in [Peru](#) in the 16th Century, "discovered" the Inka civilization, and in the process introduced to the world a sophisticated culture, with state sponsored religion, intricate administration, centralized government, monumental temples, and lots of gold and silver. Yet despite the Inka's societal development and economic success, they were in the grips of a nasty civil war amongst its leadership.

Thus, they became vulnerable to the Spanish manipulations to split and conquer. It didn't take long before the Inka empire crumbled and the mighty Inka society started to morph into the modern mestizo (Inka

and Spanish) culture that is Peru today. This morphing is nothing new. The Inka themselves were a gradual mix of cultures they had conquered along the way: the Chimu, the Lambayeque, Lupaka, Colla, Chimor, and Wanka civilizations.

The Inka were also related to the advanced Moche, Chan Chan, and Nazca civilizations that came before them. So, as you can see the Inka were a mix, a perfect expression of those that came before them and the contemporaries they subdued and incorporated into their empire.

[Read on](#)



Zooming with Bryan

Stay Healthy with These Eleven Essentials for Your Travel Bag

The recent coronavirus outbreak has pushed personal health to the forefront on the minds of many travelers. Whether you are concerned or not about this particular virus, it's a good wake-up call to make sure you have the tools you need to stay healthy while traveling.

Most avid travelers have a special medicine "goody" bag that they won't leave home without. The bag is comprised of those essential vitamins, medicine, and other medicine cabinet items whose services they have needed time and again on their travels.

The following is a list of the Eleven most important medicine cabinet items that should accompany you on all foreign travels, whether you're staying in five star Accommodations, or spending \$10 a night roughing it in a tent site.

[Get the tips](#)

STAY CONNECTED

