



Enjoying village life in both Sandhamn (top) and in New York City's East Village.



A tale of two cities

My first trip to New York City left me totally and completely charged. My brain was stuffed with visions of fantastic art, food, fashion, furniture, music – all sorts of “exotics” that I wanted to incorporate into my everyday life to make it more New York. I was hooked and couldn't wait to go back again.

That first visit was more than 20 years ago, but this city still bowls me over with its energetic buzz. Every time I go there, I find myself with almost an overdose of creative options to explore. I love the feeling.

As New York is a perennial travel favorite for so many people, we are putting a spotlight on it in *Destinations* this month. Because it can be such a big and overwhelming city to navigate, we went to a New Yorker to sort through the myriad options and select just a few favorites – both old and new – in terms of restaurants, hotels, shopping, and more. As author Jason Cochran states, **“ALMOST MORE THAN ANY OTHER CITY ON EARTH, NEW YORK IS A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS LANDSCAPE. IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN WALK FOR KILOMETERS, FOR HOURS, IN ANY DIRECTION, YET NEVER FIND YOURSELF IN A DEAD NEIGHBORHOOD.”** Given this, you could easily describe this guide as a must-have.

In direct contrast to the energy of New York City, we also take you on a tour of the gateway to Stockholm's outer archipelago in this issue. Sandhamn is a sailor's paradise, complete with a large harbor and an annual yacht race. It's also one of my favorite places to visit. **IN FACT, IT'S MY PICTURE POSTCARD VISION OF WHAT ISLAND LIFE SHOULD BE, COMPLETE WITH BOATS, SANDY BEACHES, ROCKY CLIFFS, PINE FORESTS AND A CHARMING BAKERY.**

While you can find a bustle of boat activity in the harbor during the summer months, there's also a lot of peace and tranquility to be found. Turn any corner and you are likely to find your own private spot to hang out.

Two visions of paradise. Two great places to enjoy this summer during your holidays. Enjoy the options!

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