



## News on: Iceland ProTravel, MiMalta, Yadi Travel, and Porto & North Portugal Convention and Visitors Bureau

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October 2024

Dear Colleague,

Happy October! Autumn is my favorite time of the year in Georgia. I'm working (when I'm home) and spending lots of my time on our newly built screened-in porch -- where I can also watch my Georgia Bulldogs football.

You may be asking, "*Why are they including Morocco in their Europe newsletter?*" Our reasoning is simple. So many people use Portugal and Spain as a gateway to Morocco that we want to remind you that we now have fabulous Yadi Travel in our portfolio.

In other news, see information on Porto & the North, MiMalta and Iceland ProTravel.

And look for updates next month on the rebirth of Iceland ProCruises. While no longer running their own cruises, they are creating awesome new land itineraries for Oceanwide Expeditions in Norway, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland -- basically a one-stop shop for those expedition cruises.

The upcoming months will be hectic for the Emerging Destinations team as we attend various trade shows and events (APTA National Forum, ACTA Canada Shows, ASTA Show San Diego, Travel Savers Global Conference, Fora Travel Show, ATTA Adventure World Travel Summit, and USTOA).

In addition, we'll be making sales calls in NY, PA, NE, KS, FL, and TX. Please take a look at our itinerary below or contact us to discover when we will be in your area so that you can schedule an in-person meeting.

Happy selling!

Jane, Ana, Jenna & Paula

**Upcoming Travel!**  
**Emerging Destinations On The Road**

- [Panama City, Panama – ATTA Adventure Travel World Summit](#): October 6– 11
- [New York City \(NY\)](#): October 15, 17 & 18
- [Philadelphia \(PA\)](#): October 16
- [Omaha \(NE\)](#): October 21
- [Kansas City \(KS/MO\)](#): October 22
- [Overland Park \(KS\)](#): October 23
- [Wichita \(KS\)](#): October 24
- [Miami, Fort Lauderdale & Boca Raton \(FL\)](#): November 11, 12 & 13
- [Austin \(TX\)](#): November 14
- [Houston \(TX\)](#): November 15
- [Chicago \(IL\) – Africa Showcase](#): November 18
- [Toronto, Canada – Africa Showcase](#): November 20
- [Nairobi, Kenya – Essence of Africa](#): December 2 to 4
- [Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville & Gainesville \(FL\)](#): December 2 to 6
- [Marco Island \(FL\) – USTOA Annual Conference](#): December 9 to 13

## News at a Glance

### [IcelandProTravel](#)

- Iceland ProCruises is setting a new course for the 2025 season and is significantly expanding its offerings to include expedition cruises for the first time. Check out [these expeditions](#).

### [Yadi Travel](#)

- Morocco [rebuilds](#) 12th century Mosque of Tinmel that was damaged in 2023.
- A previously unknown Neolithic society has been discovered in Morocco. [Check it out](#)

### [MIMalta](#)

- Malta has three new airlines operating from Sweden and Denmark.
- Did you miss our webinar "**Food, Health & Wellness in Malta**"? Don't worry, you can watch it [here](#).

## Three Perfect Days in Valletta



Only got 72 hours in the Malta capital? Here’s how to maximize your stay:

**Day One**

Check into a boutique hotel in the old town, savor the view and one of the tasting menus at the ION Harbour by Simon Rogan (Malta’s only Michelin two-star restaurant), stroll down Triq San Gwann past the cathedral to the other side of the peninsula, and grab a night cap or dessert in a waterfront bar.

**Day Two**

Slip into a “Da Vinci Code” vibe by visiting St. John’s Co-Cathedral, a 16th-century masterpiece erected by the Knights of St. John and renowned for the Caravaggio paintings *Beheading of Saint John the Baptist* and *Saint Jerome Writing*. Browse the priceless tapestries and silver relics in the cathedral museum.

A block from the cathedral are Valletta’s most impressive public spaces — St. George’s Square and the Courtyard of the Grand Master’s Palace. Tours of the recently restored palace include the Throne Room, the Armory, and the Piano Nobile corridors.

Have a casual lunch in one of the outdoor cafes in the old town and then fast forward into the 20th century at the Lascaris War Rooms, a labyrinth of underground bunkers, chambers and tunnels that coordinated the defense of Malta and Allied invasion of Sicily during World War Two.

Traditional and new twists on Maltese cuisine is the forte of several restaurants in the old town including Leglign with its seven-course local tasting menu and super-chic Adesso.

**Day Three**

Get out of town and out on the water on a catamaran cruise to the Blue Lagoon beside little Comino Island, a guided paddling adventure with Kayak Gozo, a private sailboat charter, or a cave and wreck dive in the warm waters that surround Malta.

And by the way: MI Malta can arrange it all.

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Extend Your Euro Trip in Exotic Marrakech

If you’ve got time to spare on your next European holiday, why not hop across the Med to Morocco and its most exotic city?

Yadi Tours offers two ways to experience Marrakech and its dramatic surroundings in just four or five days.

**Marrakech Vistas**

*Duration: 5 days*

*Ideal season: All year round*

A journey weaving through the vibrant chaos of Marrakech’s markets, ascending the lofty peaks of the High Atlas Mountains, and surrendering to the quietude of the Agafay stone desert.

Spend three nights in a sumptuous Riad-style hotel in the city and experience a desert overnight in a lodge set amid the stone-shaped dunes of the Agafay desert.

**Secrets & Souks**

*Duration: 4 days*

*Ideal season: All year round*

Traverse the labyrinthine alleys of the ancient Medina and immerse yourself in the lively souks, each step echoing with the city’s rich history. Transition seamlessly to the modern heartbeat of the city center, where Marrakech reveals its contemporary allure.



Choose to reside in a boutique hotel exuding charm, a lavish property dripping with opulence, or a Riad-style hotel that breathes the essence of history. Your stay becomes not just a part of the journey but an integral chapter in the story of Marrakech's mystique.



Porto's Incredibly Beautiful Bookstore



Opened in 1906, the [Livraria Lello](#) of Porto is often called the world's most beautiful bookstore. Located in a Neo-Gothic building — and especially known for its iconic red spiral staircase — the shop is a feast for both the eyes and the intellect.

Already movers and shakers in the Porto book business, the Lello brothers opened their landmark library at No. 144 Rua das Carmelitas on the 13th of January. While the comprehensive, extensive and eclectic book selection was impressive all on its own, it was the bookstores exterior and interior design that earned the most attention.

Designed by Francisco Xavier Esteves, the overall look is considered Neo-Manueline, a Portuguese revival style popular from the mid-1800s to the early 20th century. But coming so late in the architectural era, Esteves also utilized elements of Neo Gothic, Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

More like an oversized jewel box than a commercial structure, the two-story façade is exquisite, dominated by elegant arches, floral patterns and larger-than-life images of “Art” and “Science.”

Inside, a red-carpeted staircase leads to a second-floor gallery flanked by wooden bookshelves and banisters, and intricate plasterwork reminiscent of a Gothic cathedral. The crowning glory is an immense stained-glass ceiling with a *Decus in Labore* (“Honor in Work”) motif.

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## Four Surprising Things You Should Always Pack for Iceland

Going to Iceland? Besides the usual things you should throw into your suitcase, here are a few items that you may not have thought about but are essential for any sojourn on the big North Atlantic island.

**Waterproof Camera or Smartphone Case** Iceland is renowned for its geothermal hot springs and waterfalls — and the airborne moisture produced by these natural treasures. A waterproof case for your camera will help to protect your camera or smartphone from that moisture and make sure you're able to preserve the moments when you snap those pictures.

**Two-Prong Adapter** Don't get stuck without a way to recharge your electronic items. You'll need a Type F or Type C two-prong round adapter to plug your smartphone, camera battery charger, tablet etc. into Icelandic wall sockets. You generally shouldn't need a voltage converter.

**Washcloths** Most Iceland hotels don't have washcloths in their bathrooms. If this is something you use at home and cannot live without, you might want to pack a few for your trip.

**Mini fan** Iceland hotel rooms can be extremely warm (thanks to geothermal heating) and most hotel windows cannot be opened. A small battery-operated fan can help you cool off on those warm nights in the Land of Fire & Ice.







## Northern Portugal's Gift to the Entire World - The Douro



How many times can we say: this does not exist anywhere else in the world?

The Douro Valley of northern Portugal is blessed with rare contours that accentuate the pure, primitive and overwhelming beauty of the region.

To surrender yourself to the Douro, you just have to feel the immensity of the open sky over the valley. Follow the flexures of slopes colored origami green, and breathe the aged aroma of memories that become vintage, because they are so unique.

It's time to taste the Douro. Not just the flavor of its famous wines, but all of the other adventures that await upstream from Porto.

Like cruising Portugal’s legendary “River of Gold” on modern riverboats that pause for palaces and hilltop castles, picturesque villages, or wine tasting among scenic vineyards,

Climbing aboard a historic steam locomotive that pulls five passenger cars on journeys along the river between Régua and Tua.

Or visiting the famous Côa Museum, which displays the UNESCO World Heritage prehistoric rock art of the Côa Valley in an ultra-modern, award-winning building that pays homage to the region’s Stone Age heritage.

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## Time to Start Planning for the Northern Lights

It’s almost time for the Aurora Borealis to illuminate the night sky above Iceland and other Arctic regions. Which means that now is the time to start planning your Northern Lights trip with Iceland ProTravel.

You can spot them in destinations close to the Arctic Circle between September and April. The lights can shine in many different colors, from green to purple and even red, transforming the night sky into a magical dance floor.

The illumination is created when gaseous particles in the Earth’s atmosphere collide with charged particles released from the sun’s atmosphere. The charged protons and electrons are hurled into the atmosphere when so-called solar storms occur on the surface of the sun.

The different colors that we might see depend on the kind of gas particles that are colliding with the particles coming from the sun’s atmosphere, and their distance from Earth.

For example, the red Northern Lights are rarely seen because the oxygen molecules that produced them are about 200 miles away from earth.

On the other hand, the most common color is a pale yellowish green produced by oxygen molecules that are just 60 miles above the earth’s surface. It might not happen very often, but there are even blue or purple-red Northern Lights produced by nitrogen.

Learn even more about the Northern Lights — and how Iceland ProTravel can help you see them — in this excellent blog by Sophia Kaletta and Marie Callsen.



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## What's That Tiny Island Between Malta and Gozo?



It's called Comino, the smallest island in the Maltese Archipelago but a fascinating place to visit all the same. Named after the cumin seed, the island boasts just two permanent residents.

The entire island is a nature reserve and bird sanctuary, a totally unspoiled slice of the Mediterranean nation that hasn't changed in hundreds of years. And the perfect place for an outdoor adventure focused day trip organized by MiMalta.

The island's incredible turquoise colored Blue Lagoon is one of Malta's favorite places to swim, snorkel, or anchor your boat for a lazy day on the water.

Along the island's north shore is a spectacular sea arch called Għemieri Window. Nearby are the Santa Maria Sea Caves, some of them explorable by boat and others accessible only via scuba diving because they are completely submerged.

Another great dive site is the wreck of the Patrol Boat P31, a naval vessel that was purposely sunk in 2009 to create an artificial reef that attracts a wide variety of Mediterranean marine life.

There's stuff on land, too. Like a ruined 18th-century fortress called Il-Batterija ta' Santa Marija and the brawny Torri ta' Santa Marija, a watchtower built in 1618 by the Knights Hospitaller to help protect the coastline from marauding Barbary pirates. Nearby is an abandoned hospital where plague victims were quarantined during that same era.

Porto & North of Portugal Wine Tourism Routes



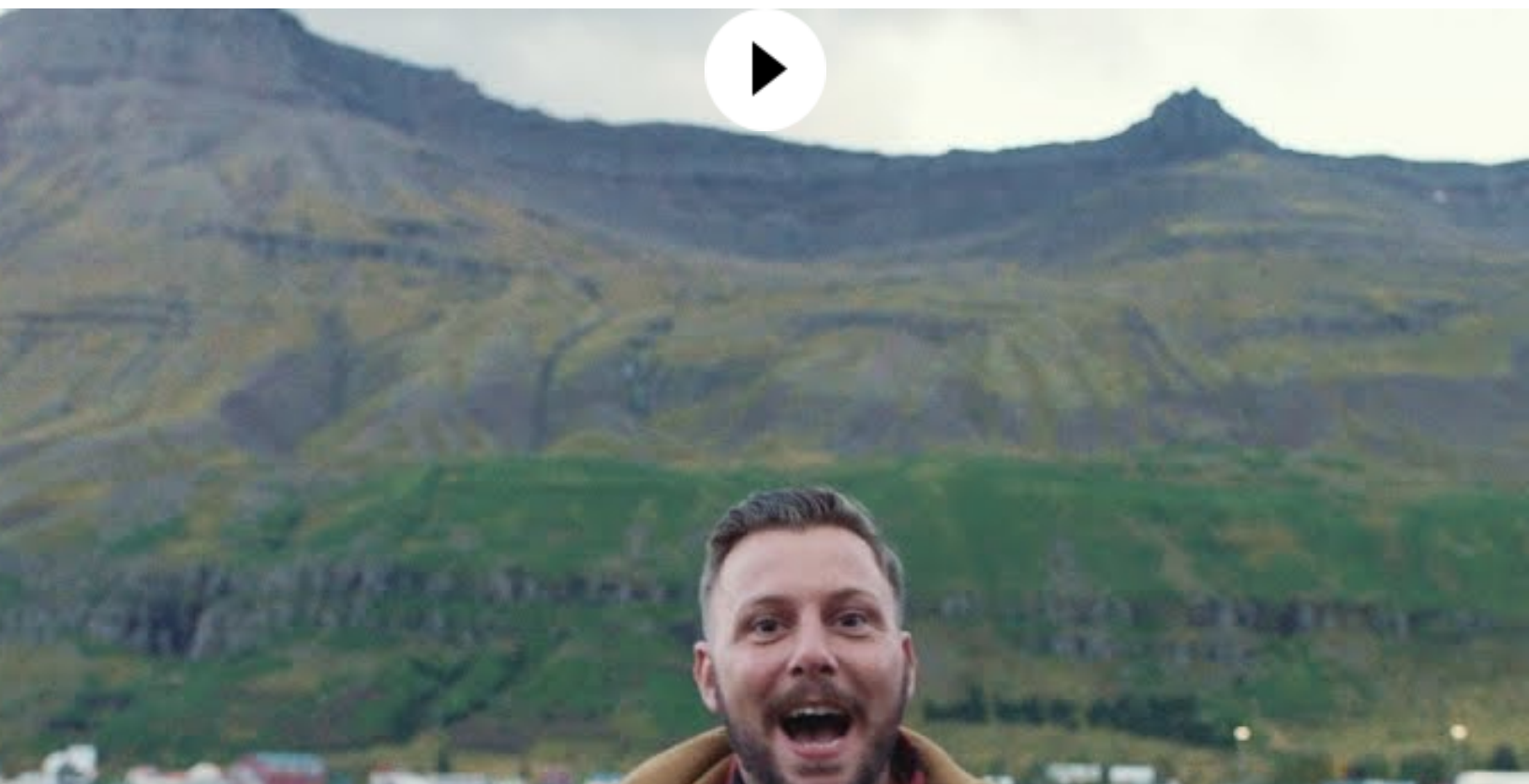




The land of the world's oldest demarcated wine region offers unique routes when it comes to wine and gastronomy.

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The World's Hardest Karaoke Song





# This is the a-ö of Iceland

Iceland challenges you to sing The Hardest Karaoke Song in the World! Try to keep up with Steindi and discover the A-Ö of Iceland.





# emerging destinations

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