

Narrator: From CurtCo Media. Coming up on the show,

Lindsey Ueberroth: I've had that and in India, in Udaipur. I've had it in Tuscany, I've experienced that in my own backyard at Ojai Valley Inn and Spa. You know, just these places where I don't know what it is about the energy in the moment that you're just at peace with the world.

Bruce Wallin: That's Lindsey Ueberroth. I'm Bruce Wallin. And this is Travel that Matters . Hello, everybody, and welcome to Travel That Matters. This is the podcast where we explore the world's most exceptional and meaningful travel experiences and meet some of the absolutely fascinating people who make them possible. In my 20 plus years as a travel editor, I've met so many great people and had so many amazing experiences. But of course, in the last couple of years, pretty much all of those wonderful experiences and interactions came to a screeching halt. But here we are. We've all had plenty of time to think about where we want to travel and now it is time to act. So where should we go? What should we do? Here to offer up her insights is someone who's just about as qualified as anyone to give travel advice. And that's Lindsey Ueberroth, the CEO of Preferred Hotels and Resorts, Preferred is the world's largest independent luxury hotel brand. And not only does Lindsey manage the company's network of more than 700 properties in 80 countries worldwide, she's also visited quite a bunch of them herself. She's been to more than 100 countries over the years, and she's also had a front row view of what was going on in luxury tourism before the pandemic. She's seen the effects of the shutdown and now how the future is shaping up for the industry and for us travelers. So I talked to Lindsey about all of those things and of course, her top picks for the places that we should all be traveling to right now. One of those picks turned out to have a very personal connection for me so stick around after my chat with Lindsey to learn why you should definitely be checking out this destination in the months and years to come. But for now, let's hear from Lindsey. Lindsey, thank you so much for joining us on Travel that Matters.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Bruce, it's a pleasure to be here with you.

Bruce Wallin: We all have a place we've been dying to go. You've been everywhere all over the world. Tell me, what is the one place you're just dying to get back to?

Lindsey Ueberroth: This is always such a hard question. It depends on the day. But I must admit, I have been daydreaming quite extensively about going back to Africa. And when I say Africa, it's not just one destination. And I think that there's some new places I'm dying to get back to. So South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Africa is one of these destinations that I think just leaves an imprint on your heart and soul. And once you've gone, it's a destination you can go back to over and over and over again.

Bruce Wallin: Yeah, I mean, we could fill a lifetime with the amount of trips that I want to do back to Africa and all the places I haven't been so far.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I probably need to move there for about three months to get done what I what I think I would like to do.

Bruce Wallin: I will join you those three months. I will be right there with you. But, you know, it's not just Africa right now. Right? We're eager to get back to so many destinations we love and explore new ones. And so how do you see that shaping up? Are we really going to travel differently to different destinations or, you know, what are you seeing on the front lines?

Lindsey Ueberroth: Yeah, I definitely think people will travel differently. And I do hope that what's happened over the past 15, 18 months to me was was the greatest reset that we could all envision in our lives. Right? This freedom of movement was taken from us. And I have two predictions. So one's kind of more of a short term kind of medium to long. And I do think once once international travel really, really opens up, I do think people will travel further abroad than they previously would have before. I think this whole concept of a bucket list is gone. Why, wait? I got to go now. This isn't like I'll wait till I retire. I'll wait till this. You know, everybody I talk to from millennials up onwards is just like I want to go and I want to go now and I want to go as far away as I possibly can because—.

Bruce Wallin: I'm sick this place.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Well, and it's just that you realize it's like, why am I putting that off? I should do it now. So I think that when people travel, I think that they're going to go to really far flung destinations. I think that's going to be great. But I do think regional travel is going to continue to be a trend. Because let's face it, we all started exploring our own backyards in our own countries or cities or states that we didn't used to. I mean, I live in California. I never would have spent time in Florida, for example. It's just not somewhere you go you go to Hawaii or you go to Cabo. You know, people in Florida go to the Caribbean or they they go to Europe. And so I think that we've started to really appreciate and enjoy our own countries again. And I do think that there's going to be a renaissance of that around the globe.

Bruce Wallin: Okay, so I love Lindsey's take on this, basically, she's saying the bucket list, has kicked the bucket. So if it's the now list. Where should we go now? Lindsey is here to tell us. So first up, I asked her her thoughts on what classic destination she thinks is ripe for a return visit.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Top of my list would definitely be Greece. It's obviously, it's one of the countries that's opened up, easy to get to. I think the other part of it is people are going to go outside of the normal places, not just the Santorinis, and the Mykonos and the Athens. I think they're going to start going to places like Crete and some of the other islands, which I think is going to be great. Top of my list is we have a new property called the Aristi Mountain Resort. Beautiful. It's a twenty four guest room place in northern Greece, kind of a hidden part of the countryside, stone village. It's got that privacy and seclusion, I think, for people if it's their first international trip and they're wanting that seclusion and they want to go somewhere new, they can hit all their other favorite spots.

Bruce Wallin: I was actually, remember when Albania never really closed to tourists. Albania has kind of been one of those places. I've heard wonderful things about Albania. And then when I heard Greece was opening up, I started looking. I was really wow, there's this whole part of Greece, I had no idea, quite frankly, no idea existed that northern like mountainous region. And I think that, again, like overtourism was a big issue before the pandemic. Right? And some of those islands in Greece, Mykonos, whatever. That doesn't appeal to me all that much right now. But but something like that in the mountains of northern Greece in a place that, you know, honestly, I didn't even know existed. That's really interesting right now. Okay, moving on. You mentioned Africa earlier. Where in Africa, where in particular do you think people should travel to right now?

Narrator: I listed off a ton of countries, but I'm going to focus on Botswana because I think it's one of the countries that doesn't get the same love that a Tanzania or South Africa does. We've got a beautiful new property that's part of our Beyond Green Collection called the Xigera Safari Lodge.

Bruce Wallin: I've been looking into this property. It looks amazing. It's spelled X-I-G-E-R-A, correct?

Lindsey Ueberroth: You got it right.

Bruce Wallin: Okay good.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I have to write those things down.

Bruce Wallin: It looks incredible. I was just reading up about it, so. Yes, okay.

Lindsey Ueberroth: And I think what's cool about it for those that really are, you know, care about sustainability. And so part of the Red Carnation Hotel group, they've also got these glass bottomed boats that you can go out and and do a safari on. So it's a different approach to it. I mean, it's ultra luxury. But I mean, to me, they

kind of set the bar. I mean we've got some great properties there that do just amazing things in terms of conservation.

Bruce Wallin: And do you really want to see what's beneath you when you're in one of those boats in the Okavango Delta? There's some animals you might not want to know are below you there.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I've done that before where a hippo kind of comes up next to you that they tell you after you're safely back on land that they're the most dangerous animals.

Bruce Wallin: Yes, yes, yes.

Bruce Wallin: So we've gone from Greece to Botswana. But as Lindsey mentioned earlier, many of us started discovering new corners of our own countries during the pandemic and we realized our own countries are pretty amazing places. I personally spent time in some pockets of California that I've never been to, places like Lassen Volcanic National Park in the far north. But there's still so much of my home state and the greater U.S. that I haven't seen. So I asked Lindsay, where should I be heading next?

Lindsey Ueberroth: Here in our own backyard and in the U.S. I think everybody that dreamt about being cowboys for a period of time. So, you know, Wyoming's become a very, very popular destination, the Jackson Hole area in particular. To me, it's the more laid back version of like an Aspen. I don't know, there's something about being in the U.S. and kind of going back to the, a version of the Wild West, but with the contemporary vibe that I love.

Bruce Wallin: And I think I actually was just speaking with a friend two days ago who is looking for a place for this summer and she can't find anything. I mean, it's like those types of places in Wyoming and Montana and Idaho, they're just filling up so fast. That's exactly what people want right now.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Yeah, they want space and they want something different. I mean, of course I went, but way too expensive cowboy boots that I'll probably never wear until I go back again or have some sort of theme party to go to. But uh,

Bruce Wallin: You can wear them in Botswana, I think they wear them in Botswana.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I'll blend right in. It'll be perfect.

Bruce Wallin: Okay, how about something close to home, but not in the U.S.?

Lindsey Ueberroth: You know, I think obviously Mexico across the board

has been popular because it's one of the few countries that stayed open. But I think what's interesting outside of the traditional Cabo, Cancun destinations like Puerto Vallarta have kind of hit the radar. It gets you a little bit of everything. You know, you get the beaches, but you also get the more historic version of it. And again, I think this is where people saying, I've been to Cabo, I've been here now what

Bruce Wallin: I love it that you picked Puerto Vallarta, for one personal reason, I actually just booked a very long term place down there. I'm going to be down there for a few months and I'm very excited about that. I love Puerto Vallarta. I think you nailed it on the head. It's like it's got that perfect combination of that. Amazing beaches, the everything you love about Mexico, the beaches and the food and the people and everything, but then there's also got that like the charming colonial cobblestone type of neighborhoods and things that you're not going to find in, say, Cancun. And I just, I really think that it's got that great mix of so many of the things that we love about Mexico. And yes, I'm very excited to be down there for for a long period of time.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I agree. I think it's totally going to have a renaissance. And it's one of those destinations that I think people forgot about for a while.

Bruce Wallin: Okay, so we've got Greece, Botswana, Wyoming, Mexico, all places I love.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I have two more. These are kind of outliers here, but one, because I've been daydreaming about it, and that's Tahiti. I'm obsessed with the Brando resort. I'm dying to go there. It's a place I have not been to. The last time I was in Tahiti, I think I was six years old with my grandparents. It's one of these destinations you kind of hear about only when people think about honeymoons. But it's like, I think a great destination for families, for kids. It's just got a whole new diversity. And I think it's also one that, again, just has so much to do that I think it's going to have a really popular resurgence as well.

Bruce Wallin: I like that pick as well. We all have our sob stories about where we had to cancel trips during the pandemic. I'm sure you have more than most people, but one of mine was my wife and I were going to Bora Bora for the very first time and I think it was April, April of 2020. So of course that doesn't that's that trip was very much on hold. But hopefully someday we will get back. And that's it is the Brando is a place that I too have been obsessing over over the years. And it's just, I've heard amazing things and it looks great.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Yeah, they're just doing amazing things. But I think that just not only is it a beautiful destination, but I think

it's one of those destinations you can walk away a better person. And I think one of the things I probably should highlight is we have Preferred Hotels and Resorts, but during the pandemic, we actually launched a new brand called Beyond Green. Which was in partnership with a gentleman named Costas Christ, who ran a company called Beyond Green Travel. What it is, is it's a brand that's focused on luxury hotels that really excel in the area of sustainable tourism. And so that goes beyond the basics of sustainability. You know, this kind of reduce, reuse, recycle concept, what happens on properties. Because all of these, like the Brando is a great example of one that's doing it in spades. But it also pulls in the other two pillars that the UN has really set as the benchmark for sustainable tourism and that includes community. So this belief in empowering communities, hiring locally, sourcing locally, that the hand up not a hand out concept and kind of coming together to improve livelihoods and social well-being. And then the third part of this heritage, the sense of place. Properties that really embrace the destination that they're in and that the joy of travel is, I think we all outta agree, is being connected, that diversity of cultures and people and prior to this over tourism was a big topic. You know, so it's about how do you balance that?

Bruce Wallin: Lyndsey's brought up some incredible destinations, but in addition to the places you may already love, we're all in search of something new, something up and coming. So I asked Lindsey what country it is that she thinks is an emerging destination that we should all have on our radars.

Lindsey Ueberroth: The other one that I put on here was was Honduras. And for the seasoned leisure traveler, that is looking for something really authentic, you know, breathtaking, diverse I think it's one of these up and coming destinations. I think it's one that travelers that go in 2021 and 2022 are going to still be able to kind of explore this gem before it becomes too popular. I think what people don't understand, it's got ruins, it's got diving, it has the second largest coral reef in the world. I don't think people know that. So there's just great things to do from a [inaudible] Mountain. And, you know, they're famous for their tea and chocolate. And I just think it's one of these destinations if somebody is looking for something new, I would put this at the top. I also think it's a country that's very focused on conservation. Their tourism infrastructure is really progressive.

Bruce Wallin: I love that because, well, I traveled through Honduras back in the mid 1990s. I'm really dating myself right now, but I traveled through Honduras. And at that point I said, oh, my God, this is the next Costa Rica. This place is going to blow up. It is so amazing. I mean, it really does combine a lot of the kind of, you know, some of the cultural components that you might find in Guatemala with then some of the incredible wildlife and beaches and everything

that you would find in Costa Rica. And so I just thought, like, this place is so ripe to boom. So just to recap, the places that you should go right now are Greece, Botswana, Wyoming, Tahiti, Bora Bora and Honduras. Great picks, great variety. And some of them are, some of them are more kind of traditional luxury destinations. Other ones more, more kind of emerging. You mentioned that there are also a few places on your list that you're really excited about, but they're not really doable right now. Can you tell us a few of those places that you think, you know, maybe two or three years from now are really going to be hotspots?

Lindsey Ueberroth: Oh, gosh, I don't even know that it's two or three years from now. I mean, I just think it's a matter of whether or not you can get there. I think that there's parts of Asia and Southeast Asia that are still really kind of taking off. I'm personally very obsessed with Mongolia as a destination. Like, I think it's just one of those destinations that you can then tie into other parts of Asia, and it's just culturally I just think is fascinating. I think that there's parts of South America that I just think that South America has had a tough run, at certain times economically and politically of late. And I think that that's going to be a market that's going to start to bounce back and a lot of great destinations to visit in those markets.

Bruce Wallin: One hundred percent, I think of myself as, I love South America. I love it, but I really haven't explored hardly any of it when I when I really think of it. I mean, I've been to Chile, I've been to Peru, but there's still so much to see for me down there. So I'm eager to go back there for sure.

Lindsey Ueberroth: High on my list in an area where we would love to add a lot more hotels.

Bruce Wallin: Very good. Okay, so on that note, on the note of hotels, which hotels you're adding, give us a sense of like what are some of the things we can get excited about right now?

Lindsey Ueberroth: Last year, I'll say, during the pandemic, we actually added 40 hotels to our portfolio, which is pretty amazing. A lot of them new builds. So outside of the U.S., in Andalusia, Spain, La Esperanza, Granada, which you got a 12 acre retreat, located in private park with a heliport. Right? Which is always important. We always want to be able to land in our helicopters. It's entirely new. Just opened in April. And it's, I think it's very exclusive. So I mean you're going to have private chefs, they're very focused on having immersive guides that can take you through the Spanish culture, painting, flamenco classes, private chefs, and it's very small, six bedrooms. So very, very exclusive,

Bruce Wallin: Such a beautiful part of Spain too, such an amazing

area.

Lindsey Ueberroth: If we head over to Asia, we're about to open the Hotel Metropole in Taipei, Taiwan. Great location, kind of that buzzy area, larger property. But again, for those that like the buzz and hum of of Asia, I'm anxious to get back to Asia. I miss it.

Bruce Wallin: I'm really interested in going to Taiwan. Just the natural beauty looks incredible. And then you've got these just buzzing cities, like you said. So that's that's one of the places on my list for sure.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Italy always a favorite destination, right. Everybody is excited to get to get back to Italy. But what's nice is this, it's a new one in Piedmont, Italy, which isn't necessarily a part of northern Italy that everybody gets to, but it's famous for its vineyards.

Bruce Wallin: What's that one called?

Lindsey Ueberroth: It's called the Casa di Langa. It's a beautiful, again, tiny thirty nine room luxury retreat. Just a little gem. So those people that are planning a wedding and they want to buy out or kind of take over an entire property, it would be a great, great retreat. For those of you that, everybody that's familiar with Montage Hotels and Resorts, they've been very busy. So I just was up at their property in Healdsburg, up in wine country here in California.

Bruce Wallin: I just toured the one they're opening in Big Sky. Also going to be fantastic. That one's opening in December I believe.

Lindsey Ueberroth: I believe so, yes. But then their sister brand, or brother brand I guess if you want to call it, Pendry. Pendry Chicago just opened up. The one in New York is about to open this summer, kind of in that Hudson yard development, which is going to be awesome. I was also just at their property in West Hollywood that opened. So kind of from coast to coast, they've got a lot going on.

Bruce Wallin: We're going to take a quick break and we'll be right back with Lindsey Ueberroth. [Ad Break]

Bruce Wallin: Welcome back to my chat with CEO of Preferred Hotels and Resorts, Lindsey Ueberroth, and so you mentioned West Hollywood, Manhattan, Chicago, all where Pendrys are opening. And you just mentioned the Metropole in Taiwan. Is that going to come back soon? Is that the city travel? Because that's something clearly most of us have wanted to go to Wyoming or a beach in Mexico or whatever it is. Is that city travel going to start coming back now? I mean, I think I'm feeling ready. I don't know. Are you?

Lindsey Ueberroth: I'm totally ready. Like I mean, honestly. I mean, I talked to our team in New York who, you know, obviously, that's that's that's a city that was just bustling with energy. And when you look at what happened during the pandemic and it's great to hear them talking about restaurants being open again, that, you know, the theaters starting to reopen. And I think when you look at the major city center destinations around the globe, I think that they're going to come back faster than people are predicting. But a lot of it's going to be driven by the sights and the things that we all wanted to go and experience. Right? So I think as restaurants reopen and museums and the theater, I do think that will come back. But I also think it's one of those I've always said there's people that travel well and there's people that are well traveled. Right? So anybody can travel well, you can buy an expensive airline ticket, but are you well traveled? Meaning, are you one of the people that's like, I want to be the first to give back to New York City or to Paris or London and I don't know, kind of be like the locals, be there with the locals as it, is not waiting for the the masses to come back and say, okay, now that everything is open again. So I think there's going to be kind of this insider vibe to that resurgence of cities.

Bruce Wallin: On that note, I mean, one of the things that I've always loved doing is traveling kind of off season, right? So going places when at times when, you know, because there's a reason why Venice, Paris, Amsterdam, whatever, it's there's a reason there's too many tourists there because they're great places. Right. I mean, we've we all want to go there. But it's also a lot more fun, in my opinion, to experience those places when there aren't a million other Americans there. So, like, do you see that becoming more of the norm to where people are are traveling more consistently throughout the year rather than, you know, holidays, summer, so on?

Lindsey Ueberroth: So you hit on a topic that I'm really passionate about because I think the psychology around the recovery is going to be interesting. I think that what's happened with the shift of people being able to work from home and having a lot more flexibility is going to completely transform, I guess, what we used to call leisure travel, you know, this business to leisure travel, because I know I'm doing it. I'm taking personal vacations. But then I weave into business while I'm there because I can. And I absolutely think people start traveling off season. I was just talking to somebody yesterday who said I booked my trip to New York, but it's not until January. But that's a horrible time to go. And I said, actually, that can be one of the best times to go. It's cozy. It's charming. You know,

Bruce Wallin: It's New York.

Lindsey Ueberroth: It's New York. You're living with the locals. You know, I think that's great. I do think that this this trend from flexibility is going to shift how people travel and spend their time.

Bruce Wallin: And then you're talking to someone who just booked a three month trip to Puerto Vallarta.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Exactly. Your office is now Puerto Vallarta.

Bruce Wallin: That's right. Correct. Okay, so with all this with all these great new hotels, with all the pent up demand people so excited to get back on the road again, how do you define luxury travel and

Lindsey Ueberroth: what is the best

Bruce Wallin: form that it can take going for like how we've had the time, we've had a reset. How can we do it differently going forward to make it better both for the traveler and also for the for the destinations?

Narrator: I mean, I've always said luxury travel is very personal, right? We travel for different reasons. And I think that I do think that people are going to travel more purposefully going forward. I mean, I look at it. I think it's not just having a luxury experience. I think it's about we call it the good host, the good guest, right? Good host is the hotel and the destination that's giving you incredible service. But the good guest is how do you give back to that destination in the same way? How are you engaging with the locals in the community? And I think people just are looking for a lot more purpose in their life when they travel. And I just think luxury travel, I think it's this success to significance sort of concept.

Bruce Wallin: I honestly I think that's spot on with with kind of how it's affected me is is I definitely have the sense of, okay, we've all realized how precious our travel time is now. Right. And to me, it's like I don't want to waste another second of another trip for the rest of my life. I want it every moment to count an effort like that purposefulness. So, you know, I'm not just going to travel to travel. I want to go places that are going to make a difference with me. And I think you've nailed it on the head like that. I don't think people are going to necessarily change where they're going or necessarily be more sustainable in their travels. I hope so. And I think they'll be some of that. But I think the main thing that is what you just hit on right there is that they're going to be more purposeful because they realize how precious travel time is.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Well, I mean, it's the greatest gift. I mean, I've always said this. This is why we're so passionate. It's why our ideology starts with we believe in travel. We believe in the power of travel. I believe it changes people's lives. I think that the last fifteen months have taught us that it's one of the greatest gifts. I just think that the more people travel and immerse themselves in the destination and the culture, you just come back changed. Right? It's

not just a sat at a beautiful beach and I drank great wine and I had a nice meal. It was no, I did a cooking class.

Bruce Wallin: Nothing wrong with that, by the way.

Lindsey Ueberroth: No, nothing wrong. But but how fun to go truffle hunting and then bring the truffles back, have a meal that's made with it in a castle overlooking the Tuscan hillside, and I just think it's that more immersive. And then you come back and you bring those things back to your lifestyle at home. Right.

Bruce Wallin: So with that travel as a change agent, right , travel is transformational, is something we hear a lot about it. You guys are in the business of creating these experiences that that really affect people, you know, and have these meaningful experiences. When was the last time on your travels that you had an experience that really you felt like affected you deeply and was transformational?

Lindsey Ueberroth: One of the most transformational things I did was actually with a nonprofit called Wine to Water. And I went down to the most remote part of the Amazon and for seven days slept in a hammock with no running water, no electricity, no access to Wi-Fi, and did manual labor for 16 hours a day helping repair water wells in these really remote parts of the world. And and the reason why I say it was transformational is to me at the core was that I think it was so cool about travel. Is everybody that was doing it, you were just a person. You didn't have a title. It reset me, my appreciation for the access that we have, especially when you get to travel in luxury travel. It's just like so heightened when you're kind of stripped away of all those things and you see how happy, that people we were around are completely happy. Like they had no idea that there's a world outside of them that has all these luxury experiences. And it's like now whenever I travel, I just take pause sometimes. And I think about that, that I've been given the gift to travel the world and have all these experiences. And you just kind of have to go back to the core of what's important and, but that was one that just blew my mind.

Bruce Wallin: That is truly transformational travel. And it's interesting that, you know, someone in the luxury travel business that that it was an experience that wasn't a luxury expense. But I think that that's one reason. And honestly, I think with luxury travel, people think of it as fancy hotels and great wines and all the things all the time. But but sometimes, and it's a large thing that you guys focus on this lot. It's the experiences. And those experiences aren't necessarily what we would consider luxury. They're just getting you to do, your ability to do things that other people aren't doing and experiencing things that other people don't experience.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Yeah, I had I had a gazillion moments that came to mind, like, you know, those moments that you're traveling. And you're

almost brought to tears, right. Because it's just it's the perfect sunset. The music's playing and you're with the right person. And, you know, I've had that in India , in Udaipur, I've had it in Tuscany. I've experienced that in my own backyard at Ohio Valley Inn and Spa. And it's just these places where I don't know what it is about the energy in the moment that you're just at peace with the world. That, to me, is, I think, what you're getting at that moment where you're like, you know what? If today was my last day, I've lived a good life. I've lived a really good life.

Bruce Wallin: That's a good, that's a good perspective right there. Look, we have a lot of destinations to get excited about now. We I mean, Greece, Botswana, Wyoming, Tahiti, Honduras, we threw in Taiwan, you know, new hotels , Chicago, New York, we got Piedmont. You know, I'm more excited than ever right now. So thank you so much for sharing all of your your insights. It's been great to have you here. And I really appreciate it. Thanks, Lindsey.

Lindsey Ueberroth: Thanks for having me. It was great to catch up.

Narrator: And now for the Wallin Wrap Up.

Bruce Wallin: hatLindsey brought up so many great destinations today, but of course, the one that I'm most excited about is Puerto Vallarta. Now, as mentioned, I'm going down there on a very extended trip and I've had a lot of people ask me, like, why Puerto Vallarta? Why are you going there for months at a time? And I guess for me, it's just it represents kind of all the things that I love about Mexico. It's got all the great beaches and the, you know, the activities, the jungle. But then it's also got a real city with with fantastic food and people. And it's just this kind of microcosm of all the things that I love about Mexico. But I also feel like Puerto Vallarta right now is really going through a renaissance. And, you know, it was a huge destination in the 1960s and beyond. But, you know, it lost a little bit of its luster over the years and I think like now there is a new energy in that town. And it's also changed in that the concept of Puerto Vallarta has expanded so far to the south and north now. And, you know, the Puerto Vallarta airport is your hub for everything from the Costa Alegre to the south, all the way up to Sayulita, Punta Mita and even the new One& Only Mandarin, which is even north of Sayulita. There's so many new great resorts. There's a new Four Seasons opening up on the Costa Alegre, La Salamander's, which is one of my favorite spots anywhere. Very, very chic hideaway on the Costa Alegre that just finished a whole renovation. You got the Conrad Punta de Mita, which just opened in September. Fantastic place on the beach just north of the Bay of Banderas. But I still feel like the heart of it all is the city of Puerto Vallarta. And there really is a lot going on there. Maxwell Residences just opened up this collection of 14 beautiful apartments right above the water, right above the romantic zone in town, new restaurants, beach clubs. And that's a big part of life in

Puerto Vallarta, by the way, is that, ah, the beach clubs. But there's just something going on. I was talking to a friend of mine who lives down there recently and he said, you know what? You are never going to be bored in Puerto Vallarta and so come to Puerto Vallarta. You will never be bored. And I hope to see you there. I'd like to thank Lindsey Ueberroth for joining us today on Travel That Matters. If anyone you know is looking for great travel ideas, please share this episode with them and check out [Curtco.com](http://Curtco.com) or the show notes for more information. This episode was produced and edited by A.J. Mosley and Darra Stone. Mastery by A.J. Mosley. Music by Joey Salvia. I'm Bruce Wallin and we'll see you on the next Travel That Matters.

Narrator: Curtco Media, media for your mind.