Katherine LaGrave

Grand Award Entries

AFAR

**Journey to the Geographical Center of North America**

*Since 1932, the tiny town of Rugby, North Dakota, has claimed to be the geographical center of North America. But as with most things, the truth depends on who's telling it.*

**Date published:** June 15, 2020

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/rugby-north-dakota-geographical-center-north-america>

**Category:** Personal Comment

**Once Upon a Time in Central Florida**

*Inside Give Kids the World Village, where the ice cream is unlimited, nightly tuck-ins from six-foot bunny rabbits are complimentary, and Santa Claus visits every Thursday.*

**Date published:** February 3, 2021

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/at-give-kids-the-world-village-happiness-inspires-hope>

**Category:** U.S./Canada Travel

**The God of Silence Speaks Up**

*Gordon Hempton has spent the past 30 years warning people about the consequences of the disappearance of natural quiet on Earth, which he calls a “solar-powered jukebox.” And now that the world is a little less noisy, he’s asking us, once again, to listen.*

**Date published:** September 8, 2020

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/gordon-hempton-quiet-parks-international-saving-quiet>

**Category:** Environmental and Sustainable Tourism

**The Power of Women in Travel**

*Women make up a majority of travelers and the lion’s share of the tourism workforce. As the travel industry rebuilds, it is time to put the so-called second sex first.*

Date published: March 4, 2021

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/the-power-of-women-in-travel>

**Category:** Travel News/Investigative Reporting

**Honky-Tonk Tokyo**

*Underground in the world’s largest city, a fever for all things country lives on through line dancing, big hats, and even bigger personalities.*

**Date published:** July 7, 2020

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/in-tokyo-japan-country-music-finds-an-audience>

**Category:** Cultural Tourism

**Waterworld**

*America’s first water sommelier believes that the more we think about what we drink, the more we will care about the planet. But first, he has to get people to take him seriously.*

**Date published:** October 28, 2020

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/water-sommelier-martin-riese-wants-to-help-hydrate-the-world>  
**Category:** Culinary-Related Travel

**Japan’s First Woman Soy Sauce Sommelier Is Here to Help Save Tradition**

*Keiko Kuroshima is one of just three soy sauce sommeliers in Japan.*

**Date published:** March 18, 2021

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/soy-sauce-in-shodoshima-japan-sommelier-keiko-kuroshima>

**Category:** Culinary-Related Travel

**Where Can Americans Travel Right Now?**

*With all of the rules and regulations, figuring out where Americans can travel at the moment is no easy task—so we’ve done the work for you. Here are the countries that are open to U.S. travelers right now.*

**Date published:** January 12, 2021

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/where-can-americans-travel-right-now>

**Category:** Service-Oriented Consumer Work

**The “Flying Feminist” Who Was the First Woman to Design, Build, and Fly Her Own Plane**

*Pioneering aviator Lilian Bland had built and flown her own plane before Amelia Earhart had even become a teenager. So why don’t more people know her name?*

**Date published:** August 26, 2020

**Link:** <https://www.afar.com/magazine/lilian-bland-the-flying-feminist-who-built-her-own-plane>

**Category:** Special-Purpose Travel