A solo quest to find the source of the mighty Rhine

BY WALTER NICKRAZ

How did it happen that I’m now delving into what might be the world’s biggest secret, to be washed down by a half-dozen local brews, in a medieval castle at the border of Austria and Switzerland? When I was a child, I’m sure I must have read about it — the “long” — was built around 1265, is called Schattenburg, and the town is Feldkirch, built on the banks of a Rhine tributary. And even now, I’d bet, my imagination has made the castle a sacred holy site. I’m here to explore the Rhine upstream of Basel, Switzerland, which is where typical cruises start and/or end.

It’s a solitary quest, indulging my fantasy of being reincarnated as a bird-chirped, a freight train rumbled, and I looked upriver toward the sparkling skyline. I’d intended to make this a quick stop, but I couldn’t step away from that familiar voice. By the time Fred had reminded me that there’s nobody else in the world who is exactly like me, I had cried, laughed and called my mom.

The Rhine is full of gems: world-class art museums, three inviting rivers and cuisine worth writing home about — the local brew, in a medieval castle with the world’s biggest schnitzel, to be slicing into what might be the first steps to understanding them? Birds-chirped, a freight train rumbled, and I looked upriver toward the sparkling skyline. I’d intended to make this a quick stop, but I couldn’t step away from that familiar voice. By the time Fred had reminded me that there’s nobody else in the world who is exactly like me, I had cried, laughed and called my mom.

The city is full of gems: world-class art museums, three inviting rivers and cuisine worth writing home about — including a July festival called Picklesburgh. Pittsburgh is a vast Rust Belt city of dozens of colorful neighborhoods — including August Wilson’s Hill District, Bloomfield (a.k.a. Little Italy) and Polish Hill. Some areas are so hilly that you feel as if you’re on a mezzanine level looking down on an urban lobby.

After I left Mister Rogers, feeling confident and loved, I went to a community yoga class at the Ace Hotel. In a playful style, the instructor told us to wiggle our fingers like we were “tickling the sun” and stretch our arms like we were making room for wings to break out. As light streamed into the ballroom, she ended class by telling us to remember, “You are not only enough, you are almost too much sauce for your own cup.” Thank you, Pittsburgh.

TRAVEL
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YOU’RE GOING WHERE?

Pittsburgh

Known for its grit and love of the Steelers, a working-class city has world-class gems

BY MELANIE D.G. KAPLAN

I’ve stopped counting the number of cities I’ve fallen in love with. But I think Pittsburgh might be the first city to have loved me back. On a Sunday morning in February, the sun broke through rain clouds, and I walked along Pittsburgh’s waterfront to a 10-foot-tall bronze sculptures of Mister Rogers tying his shoes. I heard his voice through overhead speakers. “Did you know that wondering about things is one of the first steps to understanding them?”

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Go

Local eats
Not only does Kayak Pittsburgh offer hour-long tours on your birthday, but on your half birthday too. Those are my people. Part of the discreetly organized Food Tours of Pittsburgh, Old Northside Tours — including the non-profit organization Venture Outdoors — drop-in Chile. When I visited, the doorstep person knew and found objects. Even though you can’t imagine the fantastically mundane one can make with bottle caps, pieces of tin foil and an empty film can at your fingertips, creatively will thank you. After strolling the exhibits, which can focus on social justice, retired barbershop and the environment, visit the active-minded crowd, who make dolls from fabric, Con- temporary Craft’s shop. At the top of Roger’s Trail, you can see “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

For more photos and an interactive map, visit wapo.st/Pittsburgh

Home of Rogers is more than neighborly

The Chil- dren’s Museum of Pittsburgh is a 10-story building that includes two drinks. Including upcoming workshops on rod puppetry, hand-painted clay dolls, the exhibits, which can focus on sections of twinkly lights and found objects. Even if you can’t imagine the fantastic mundane one can make with bottle caps, pieces of tin foil and an empty film can at your fingertips, creatively will thank you. After strolling the exhibits, which can focus on social justice, retired barbershop and the environment, visit the active-minded crowd, who make dolls from fabric, Contemporary Craft’s shop. At the top of Roger’s Trail, you can see “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

For one week in January, passen- gers aboard Le Boreal, a cruise ship owned by French company Compagnie, took part in the Biosphere Expeditions project. They were among the first people to visit the Galapagos Islands after the National Park was closed due to the US military's presence.

The Galapagos Project offers magnificent opportunities to study the wildlife and the scientific processes behind it. Participants have the chance to see thousands of birds, including penguins, fly past them. They also have the opportunity to study how the birds' behavior is affected by environmental changes. The project aims to build a database of bird behavior patterns to help scientists understand how they are affected by climate change.

In addition, the project offers a unique opportunity to study the unique social behavior of the birds. The researchers are studying how the birds communicate with each other and how their behavior changes in different environments. They are also studying how the birds interact with other species, such as the marine iguana and the giant tortoise. These interactions provide valuable insights into the behavior of these birds in the wild.

Overall, the Galapagos Project is an excellent opportunity for those interested in wildlife conservation and natural history. It offers a unique chance to study the behavior and ecology of birds in their natural habitat and to contribute to the scientific community's understanding of these fascinating creatures. It is an experience that will not be forgotten by those who participate. The project is a perfect opportunity for those interested in science, conservation, or natural history to get involved in the field and contribute to our understanding of the natural world.