

CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**7 Great  
American  
Beach Towns**

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 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

# TRAVELER

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June/July 2014

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CHECKING IN

# Virginia's Pastoral Retreats



Horses graze in the pasture of the new Salamander Resort in Middleburg, Virginia.

## INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON

Framed by lush meadows with split-rail fences, chef Patrick O'Connell's posh, circa 1700s inn channels William Morris in its Mayor's House and newest annex, the Parsonage. Eating is the main sport, played either in the dining room or at one of the two chef's tables. Walk off your meals with a stroll through the inn's organic vegetable garden, or wander through the shops and art galleries of the Lilliputian town.

■ WASHINGTON, VA.; FROM \$460, INCLUDING BREAKFAST AND TEA



## INN AT WILLOW GROVE

Surrounded by rolling pastures speckled with Holstein cows, this former plantation features commanding vistas of the Blue Ridge mountains. Take in the scenery along a trail through the inn's 40 acres, or visit nearby Montpelier and tour James Madison's library. At the inn, enjoy a massage in the former smokehouse and a candlelit dinner in the dining room with exposed brick and fireplaces.

■ ORANGE, VA.; FROM \$275 INCLUDING LIGHT BREAKFAST, AND BEDTIME TEA AND SWEETS



## SALAMANDER RESORT

It's just a few minutes' walk from this bucolic resort to the town of Middleburg, the horse and hunt capital of Virginia's Piedmont region. Guests can sample the horsey life with riding lessons and trail rides; a yoga class includes poses on horseback. After the exertion, visit the spa for the Riders' Relief massage, or the wine bar for sips from local vineyards and a game of billiards. On warm evenings, opt for dinner on the terrace under the stars.

■ MIDDLEBURG, VA.; FROM \$325



TRENDING

## SHOOT ONE TO SAVE THE REST?

By COSTAS CHRIST

In January, the Dallas Safari Club, a Texas-based hunting outfit, came up with an unconventional idea for protecting the critically endangered **AFRICAN BLACK RHINO**: Auction a permit to shoot one and donate the money for conservation. An international furor followed, pitting pro-trophy-hunting groups and wildlife conservation advocates against each other. One side pointed out that the targeted rhino was an old male well past reproductive age. The other side argued that killing endangered animals for sport—even to raise funds for conservation causes—sends a contradictory message. Namibia, the country that offered



Black rhino

the permit to shoot the rhino, is largely a conservation success story. But that has more to do with community-based ecotourism, a model that has shown that a living rhino can generate more income for conservation than one-off payments for dead ones. There are only about 4,880 black rhinos left in the world; these beasts are just steps away from extinction. What are enlightened travelers to do? My take: Hunting has its place, but not where the crosshairs are fixed on an endangered species. Pack a camera and track a rhino on foot with a local community guide. Not only is it an exhilarating wildlife experience, but the rhino gets to live.

JUSTIN KRIEL (PASTURE), GORDON BEALL (RESTAURANT), INN AT WILLOW GROVE (MANOR), BILL O'LEARY/ THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES (BEDROOM), JOEL SARTORE/INGIS CREATIVE (RHINO)