



21 **Soak in Kiwi**
 Hike up and over Mount Tongariro on New Zealand's North Island, and you'll pass isolated waterfalls, ancient lava flows, sacred lakes and valley views that extend to the horizon. Flying Kiwi helps preserve this scenic wonderland by transporting travelers to destinations where they hike, paddle, swim, cycle and camp their way toward fewer carbon emissions and minimal ecological impact. Flying Kiwi operates a continuous loop of specially outfitted buses (think onboard sinks, mini-libraries and bike racks) that stop at campgrounds with tent and cabin accommodations. Try the Grand Traverse from Auckland on North Island to Queenstown on South Island. Go straight through in 15 days or delve deeper into local culture with an extended break at any stop, hitching a ride with the next bus. Rates from about \$1,200 per person. flyingkiwi.com — TJ



22 **Cruise the Galápagos**
 Snorkeling with penguins and gazing into the eyes of a dusty land tortoise that may have once blinked at Darwin are only a few of the daily wonders that unfold among the lava-stone, cactus-prickled Galápagos Islands. To protect these timeless experiences, Ecoventura, an Ecuadorian expedition-cruise company, has

become a certified member of Rainforest Alliance's Smart Voyager program, which involves meeting strict requirements for low energy consumption, water conservation and recycling. Recently, Ecoventura partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to create the Galápagos Marine Biodiversity Fund, which grants local students scholarships to study tourism and natural-resource management so Darwin's wonderful "laboratory" will continue to educate future generations of environmentalists. Seven-night trips from \$2,450 per person for a doublecabin. ecoventura.com—jd



PRACTICE THE ART OF POTLATCH

23 On Quadra Island, just off Vancouver Island's central east coast, pay tribute to the Kwakwaka'wakw people at the Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre, which brings to life their sacred potlatch (gift-giving, feasting and dancing) ceremony. Exhibits include pieces from a priceless collection of more than 400 original potlatch artifacts, including whistles, long-beaked bird masks, cedar-bark skirts and wristlets. The artifacts were seized after the Canadian government banned the potlatch in 1885 and were returned in 1979. Admission from \$15. 250-285-3733

24 Choose a four-night summer cruise with Mothership Adventures for an up-close experience of First Nations culture with Lillian Hunt, a Namgis tribe member, as your cultural interpreter. Be one of only 10 guests to sail the wilderness waters near her ancestral home on northeastern Vancouver Island aboard the 22-passenger classic wooden yacht, Columbia III. You'll visit ancient First Nation sites, including beaches with clam-shell middens and a century-old burial ground guarded by mortuary totems. From \$1,690 per person. mothershipadventures.com

25 This is no ordinary canoe slicing through the waves of Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The wolf-head prow created by master canoe-carver Joe Martin reflects the tradition passed down by his late father, a Tla-o-qui-aht tribal chief. Your Tla-ook Cultural Adventures guide will likely be one of Joe's daughters, Tsimka or Gisele. Gisele also founded a nonprofit society which takes First Nations children into their traditional territories to learn the outdoor skills of their ancestors. Rates from \$44. tlaook.com — JANICE MUCALOV