

spirit

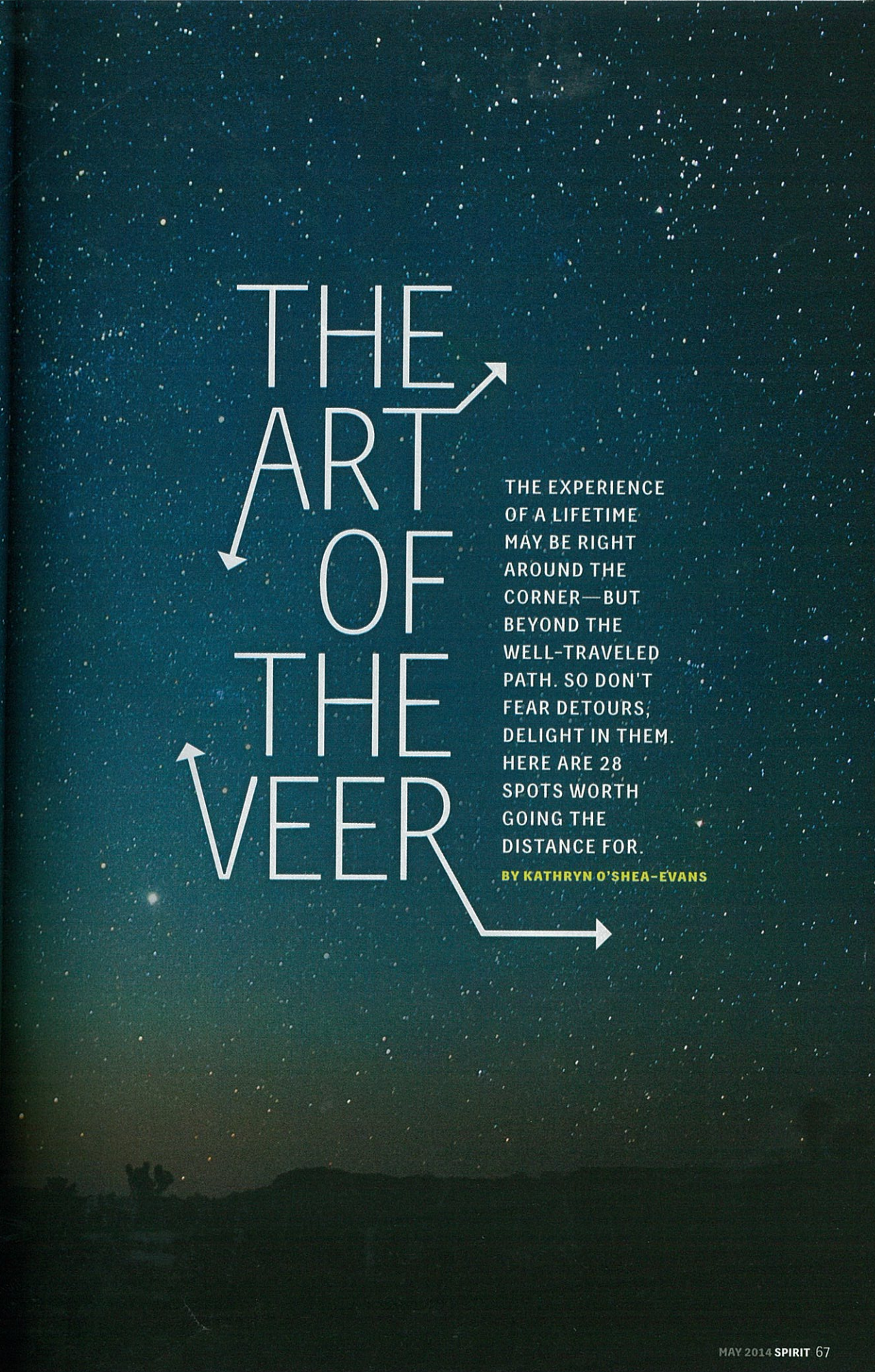
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES + AIRTRAN

The Art of the Veer

TRAVEL
SPIN-OFFS
THAT TAKE
YOU TO
UNEXPECTED
PLACES



The real stars are 131 miles from Los Angeles at Joshua Tree National Park.



THE ART OF THE VEER

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME MAY BE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER—BUT BEYOND THE WELL-TRAVELED PATH. SO DON'T FEAR DETOURS, DELIGHT IN THEM. HERE ARE 28 SPOTS WORTH GOING THE DISTANCE FOR.

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

Ships did it first. To “veer” meant to slacken the lines and go where the wind took you. In our case, it means that after enjoying your business trip or resort vacation or family visit, you take a different tack; you go the long way.

Consider the veer desert after the main course. Drive the back roads and blue highways to discover the hidden stop-ins and weekend hideaways to succeed your planned business or pleasure.

We’ve picked out more than two dozen spots to get you started (we even calculated their distances from the nearest major city). But a great veer requires a certain trust in serendipity. So make your bucket lists and itineraries, but leave time to poke around and chat up the locals. And when you stumble upon something wonderful, congratulate yourself. You haven’t Googled or guidebooked your way to it; you simply slackened the lines and veered.

—Jay Heinrichs

Lagoon cottages have private verandas.



76 MILES OF MONTEGO BAY IN ORACABESSA, JAMAICA

KICK BACK LIKE BOND, JAMES BOND

In 1952, Ian Fleming holed up in his Jamaican villa and wrote *Casino Royale*—the first of 14 James Bond books he would pen from what’s now **GoldenEye Hotel & Resort** (goldeneye.com; from \$620). Ask for the 007 bedroom; Fleming’s writing desk still sits there, just in case you’re inspired to pen the next Great Spy Novel instead of basking at the beach.

Olympia oysters at Taylor Shellfish Farms.



Eat Incredible Oysters

Start 89 miles N of Seattle in Bellingham, WA:

Here you'll catch the ferry to languorous Lummi Island, where the seven-room **Willows Inn** (*willows-inn.com*; from \$285) has earned pilgrimage status among foodies since chef Blaine Wetzel, an alum of the two-Michelin-starred Noma in Copenhagen, Denmark, took over in 2010. Wetzel describes his menu as a "story about the land" and

often serves those salty jewels of the sea, Shigoku oysters, on a bed of chilled pebbles and sorrel. In the morning, make your way to the tiny coastal town of Bow, where you can shuck your own sweet Kumamoto at **Taylor Shellfish Farms** (*taylorssamish.com*), run by the same family since 1890. Bring wine and crusty French bread, claim a waterside picnic table,

and call it cocktail hour. For dinner, hit the nearby **Oyster Bar** (*theoysterbar.net*), where Samish Bays are baked with boar bacon, sherry, and chives. Or, pick your favorites on a half shell, including mild Royal Miyagis from South Puget Sound and cucumber-fresh Fanny Bays from Vancouver Island.

76 MILES SW OF DALLAS IN GLEN ROSE, TX

Take a Wild Ride

At the conservationist-run **Fossil Rim Wildlife Center** (*fossilrim.org*), you're the safari captain. A 9½-mile road skirts open animal habitats home to everything from ostriches to aoudads, lending a whole new meaning to the words "wildlife crossing."

