**Travel**

**Savoring sublime food where Washington slept.**

**Reducing the pain of rising car-rental costs.**

**A splendid blend of wildlife and history at Lake Shetek State Park.**

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**CARTAGENA’S HIPPEST ‘HOOD**


destinations G4

Basilicata

midwest
traveler G5

A splendid blend of wildlife and history at Lake Shetek State Park.

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**Café culture is alive and well in Cartagena, Colombia, especially in the hip Getsemani neighborhood, where outdoor cafes are frequented by more locals than tourists.**

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**Maine’s Mount Desert Island: Catching a fresh dining scene**

After a kayaking trip at Seal Cove in Acadia National Park, good nearby dining options abound—a major change from 15 years ago.

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By KARENCATCHPOLE • Special to the Star Tribune

“Getsemani is alive. It’s real,” Colombian entrepreneur Nicolas Wiesner told me as we sat at a table in his Demente Tapas Bar, which he opened in Getsemani in 2013, shunning the pristine colonial center of Cartagena, Colombia.

We were surrounded by hipsters gathered at wooden tables with beers, some leaning against centuries-old stone walls, so it was a point he hardly needed to verbalize. New blood clearly was infusing the old place.

Cartagena de Indias was founded in 1533 on the northern coast of Colombia. Now much of the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Those neighborhoods are sylvan stunners with some of the most beautifully restored 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century Spanish Colonial architecture in Latin America, all protected by nearly 7 miles of fortified walls, the most extensive in South America and originally built by the Spaniards to keep pirates at bay.

Many historic buildings in the center of Cartagena have been converted into luxurious boutique hotels and acclaimed restaurants. Candy-bright paint jobs and stunning blue skies create a festive, elegant atmosphere, and the languid, Caribbean vibe mingles with the town’s colonial gravitas. The late Gabriel García Márquez, Colombia’s Nobel Prize-winning author, set many of his novels in Cartagena and kept a home here. Mick Jagger and Justin Bieber also reportedly own property in Cartagena.

This town of 900,000 on Colombia’s northwest coast draws tourists from across the globe, including me. But after a week relishing the indulgences of the colonial center, I was ready for a more authentic version of the city.

The Getsemani neighborhood, just a short walk from the old town, is a point of habitation for more locals than tourists. Almost every block is punctuated by a street vendor selling vibrantly colored fruit.

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**After a last day of hiking at Maine’s Acadia National Park, we decide to reward ourselves with dinner out. We mean way out—as in 5 miles offshore.**

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By DAVID TAYLOR and LISA SMITH

**Maine’s Mount Desert Island: Catching a fresh dining scene**

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Photos by ERIC MOHL • Special to the Star Tribune

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See COLOMBIA on G6

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See MAINE on G5

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Almost every block is punctuated by a street vendor selling vibrantly colored fruit.
Colombia’s hippest hood

In 1811 Cartagena became one of the first cities in Colombia to declare independence from Spain, backed by a group called the Getsemani Lancers, which continued to resist the Spanish until independence was won in 1821. By then, Getsemani was home to the “culture quarter” as poets, painters, sculptors or other traditional sights to see. There are no major museums, cathedrals or other traditional sights to see here, in Getsemani, the neighborhood is the attraction.

The “culture quarter”

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