

PLUS: SOHO, TRUMPED, BY MICHAEL IDOV | WHO CAN TELL HILLARY TO QUIT? | THE WEAK-DOLLAR TRAVELER

# THE POST-CHOKER METS

CAN A PAIR OF ACES RESTORE THE TEAM TO GLORY? BY STEPHEN RODRICK

# NEW YORK

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## REVOLT AT HORACE MANN

When students waged a nasty Facebook war on their teachers, the school was forced to confront issues of privacy, cruelty, and the corrosive power of money among the children of the elite.

By GABRIEL SHERMAN

HORACE MANN

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# The Stretch-Your-Dollar Travel Planner

Getaways in twenty countries (including this one), where the beleaguered dollar still has legs.

**W**HEN A BOTTLED water in London sets you back \$5, an ordinary croque monsieur in Paris runs \$15, and a dollar bill in Québec City buys only \$1.02 CAN (thanks for nothing, Canada!), the appetite for international travel pretty much disappears. But it doesn't have to. The Mexican peso has barely budged over the past five years; Belize politely pegs its dollar to ours at a two-to-one ratio; Ecuador now accepts only greenbacks; and even euro-zone countries are affordable, if you take a chance on group travel, or stay away from the major cities. We've gathered data on well-priced destinations in both hemispheres, from Argentina to Tunisia to Laos. Our list isn't comprehensive—we left off Costa Rica, whose plunging currency has been canceled out by exploding tourism—and we kept in some countries, like Morocco, that are still great values in spite of their exchange rates. We asked an expert on European travel to recommend six dollar-friendly regions across the Atlantic. And because the most rewarding places don't necessarily require a passport or a primer on international monetary policy, we suggest a few domestic getaways as well. A weak dollar shouldn't mean a weak vacation.

*A boulder-strewn cove in Colombia's Parque Nacional Tayrona.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY CARLOS VILLALBA/REXUS. ILLUSTRATION BY PIETARI ROSSI.





SPRING  
TRAVEL

## North Africa

The ruins! The souks! The windsurfing!  
Take a breezy, aromatic, culturally rich escape  
to the top of the continent.



### Egypt

*The dollar's held relatively steady  
against the Egyptian pound, and  
everything's cheap here anyway.*

#### INDULGENCE INDEX

Alabaster vase .....	\$20
Sunset felucca cruise .....	\$12
Shisha water pipe .....	\$2

#### Luxor

So mind-blowing are the royal  
tombs that stud Luxor's dunes  
they transcend even the packed

parking lots in the Valley of the  
Kings. Arrive at sunrise on the  
back of a donkey—a four-mile trip  
(\$15) arranged by the owners at the  
friendly and unostentatious Hotel  
El Nakhil (from \$25; 20-95-231-  
3922 or [hotelsinluxor.com](http://hotelsinluxor.com)). Skip  
Tut's tomb for the incredible colors  
of Ramses VI's or the spectacular re-  
liefs of Seti I's. Let the fantastically  
grand Temple of Hatshepsut, set into  
the cliff just a dusty mile from the  
tombs, be your finale. Revert to the  
modern day for the ride home: Take  
a cab (\$4; your donkey-tired butt  
will thank you), and sit on the hotel  
roof with a cool Sakara beer, watch-  
ing the feluccas, with their sickle-  
shaped sails, float up the Nile.



### Tunisia

*Its Roman ruins rival anything  
across the Mediterranean, and the  
dinar's far kinder than the euro.*

#### INDULGENCE INDEX

Round of golf .....	\$62
Hand-painted pottery .....	\$5
Bottle of Vieux Magon red wine .....	\$8

#### Tabarka

From the Résidence Méhari (from  
\$80; 216-78-670-184 or [golden  
yasmin.com](http://golden<br/>yasmin.com)), pinball between two  
of the country's best-preserved Ro-  
man sites, Dougga and Bulla Regia,  
both located in the African Alps west  
of the capital. At Dougga, stroll the  
2,000-year-old remnants of a theater  
and marketplace and stand in awe  
in front of the Corinthian-columned  
Capitoline Temple. Drive 90 minutes  
across the Teboursook and Kroumir-  
rie ranges to Bulla Regia, renowned  
for its excavated underground living  
quarters, which let the Romans (and  
now you) beat the summer heat.

#### Djerba

You'll probably miss the local  
Sephardic community's post-  
Passover pilgrimage to El Ghriba  
Synagogue, but you can still admire  
the beautifully tiled and columned  
building. Less than a mile away, book  
one of the fourteen courtyard rooms  
at Hotel Dar Dhiyafa (from \$155; 216-  
75-671-166 or [hoteldardhiyafa.com](http://hoteldardhiyafa.com)).  
Day-trip it to nearby Goellala, famous  
for its colorful pottery. Or just borrow  
towels and hit any beach along the is-  
land's glazingly sunny eastern coast.



Hotel Dar Dhiyafa in Djerba.



### Morocco

*Granted, the dirham's  
been creaming the dollar recently,  
but a more expensive  
souk is still just a souk.*

#### INDULGENCE INDEX

Antique metal lantern .....	\$10
Seaweed wrap at a hammam .....	\$16
Hour-long carriage ride .....	\$10

#### Marrakech

Get happily lost in the mildly  
hallucinatory city's labyrinthine  
alleyways, teeming with vendors  
selling colorful *zellij* tiles (\$1),  
antique saddlebags (\$50), and  
stacks of goat heads. The medina's  
no quieter at nightfall, when snake  
charmers, acrobats, henna artists,  
and snail-soup sellers come down  
to the lantern-lit main square,  
Djemaa el-Fna. Five bucks buys  
you a break from the madness at the  
Seussian Majorelle Garden (now  
owned by Yves Saint Laurent; [jardin  
majorelle.com](http://jardin<br/>majorelle.com)). Retire at the  
antique-filled Riad Malika (from  
\$157; 212-24-38-5451 or [riad  
malika.com](http://riad<br/>malika.com)) in the heart of the  
medina.

#### Essaouira

Near-constant breezes off the  
Atlantic draw windsurfing aficio-  
nados from all over the world to  
Essaouira's main, crescent-shaped  
bay. Club Mistral's English-  
speaking instructors will gear you  
up (\$190 for a six-hour lesson; [club  
mistral.com](http://club<br/>mistral.com)). Experts should point  
their sails 40 minutes south to the  
gustier Sidi Kaouki. Take the chill off  
by a log fire at the rustic Villa Maroc  
(rooms from \$130; 212-24-47-3147  
or [villa-maroc.com](http://villa-maroc.com)), located just  
inside the town's famous seawall.

The Djemaa el-Fna night market in Marrakech.







A far-off view of Bolivia's Choro Trek trail from Hotel Esmeralda.

Bodega Vasija Secreta ([vasija.secreta.com](http://vasija.secreta.com)) for free tastings of the fruity, dry Torrontes.

### Buenos Aires

The steak at La Cabrera (5411-4831-7002) is alone worth the trip, but after a few days on the B.A. steer circuit, you'll need a break. Local foodie and travel agent Harry Hastings of PlanBA (5411-4776-8267) points beef-averse clients to Sirop (5411-4813-5900), a French country-style kitchen in Recoleta, or the fish and pasta specialist Social Paraíso (5411-4831-4556) in Palermo Soho. Nearby, Chuy (5411-4831-7176) has the best salad in town, tossed with almonds, roast pears, Brie, and gravlax (\$12).



## Colombia

*The peso-to-dollar ratio isn't as good as it used to be. The upside: Colombia's nicer than it used to be.*

### INDULGENCE INDEX

Nightclub cover .....	\$7.50
Mesa de los Santos coffee .....	\$7/lb.
Mud bath.....	\$2

### Medellín

Think Miami's sexy? Try Medellín. Avianca Airlines ([avianca.com](http://avianca.com)) regularly offers an extra ticket to a second Colombian city with round-trip purchase from JFK. Recover from the flight with a steam bath at the Hotel

Porton Medellín (from \$100 with breakfast; 574-313-2020 or [hotel.portonmedellin.com](http://hotel.portonmedellin.com)). If it's Saturday night, air out your best jeans and follow the gorgeous crowd to Mangos ([discotecamangos.com](http://discotecamangos.com)), a cowboy-themed discothèque with lamé-clad dancers wriggling to salsa, vallenato, and pop on multiple stages. Order a shot of Ron Medellín rum and ask someone, "¿Bailamos?"

### Parque Nacional Tayrona

From the visitor's center of this 37,000-acre ecological reserve (\$13 entrance fee) follow wooden signs along a muddy jungle path to the turquoise waters of Cabo San Juan de la Guila, a cape framed by huge boulders, coconut palms, and shaded hammocks, where low-

maintenance travelers rest their heads at night (\$5 to \$8; 571-607-1500 or [parquesnacionales.gov.co](http://parquesnacionales.gov.co)). Two on-site restaurants and a bathhouse make for effortless camping—with or without a tent.

### Volcán de Lodo el Totumo

Don't expect soothing music or spa lighting at Volcán de Lodo el Totumo. Located 30 miles from Cartagena, the 50-foot-high mound of mud is manned by self-taught locals who dish out massages for \$2 a pop (plus a customary 50-cent tip). Book a day trip (\$22 with lunch) through Hotel 3 Banderas (from \$88 with breakfast; 575-660-0160 or [hotel3banderas.com](http://hotel3banderas.com)). In less than an hour you'll be neck-deep in mineral-rich gray stuff.