



BY BJ BANGS

STATION & MILLION

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N VACATION AND MISSING YOUR CAT?

There's a host of places where you can find a lot of felines while traveling. Here are 50 places where you can get a big "kitty fix" and a huge dose of cat while away from home.

This six-toed (polydactyl) cat named blainy Thuman checks out a Royal Pontable typewhiter in Ernest blemingway's writing studio.

The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, Key West, Florida. From 40 to 50 polydactyl (extra-toed) cats, named after famous people, have had the run of the place for more than 50 years, and plans are that they'll be there for years to come. Info: 305-294-1136; www.hemingwayhome.com

The Feline Historical Museum, Alliance, Ohio. Home of the Cat Fanciers' Association, the museum is devoted to the history of cats and the American cat fancy, with more than 165 Maneki Nekos (Japanese good-luck cats) and a cat house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Info: 330-680-4444; www.felinehistoricalfoundation.org/museum.html

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Rome's Largo di Torre Argentina. About 250 feral cats reside among the ruins — some 20 feet below the street — including where Julius Caesar was assassinated.

Japan's Cat Island, Tashirojima. In addition to the large number of cats, there are 10 cat shrines, 51 cat-shaped stone monuments, as well as catshaped buildings. Property in the second se

Volunteers from around the world help care for the Largo di Torre Argentina cats.

Japan's Lesser Known Cat Island, Aoshima. After the silkworm farm industry closed, the few remaining people fed the cats hoping for good luck and prosperity.

Cat Cafés

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Calico, one of Tokyo's oldest and largest cat cafés. Visitors spend around \$9 an hour to visit with 28 resident felines.

Cat's Store, Tokyo's first cat café Having opened in 2005, it is still going strong even with the increasing number of cat cafés in Japan. Rome's Protestant Cemetery. Home to one of Rome's most famous semi-feral colonies, the cats roam around the graves of well-known British poets Keats and Shelley. Info: www. cemeteryrome.it

> Turkey's Turquoise Coast, Kalkan. Large numbers of cats, taken care of by the Kalkan Association for the Protection of Street Animals, gather by the old mosque and along the picturesque Kalkan beach.

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Moscow Cats Theatre, Russia. The theatre boasts non-stop action by talented felines performing original and astounding acrobatic feats.

The Houtong Coal Mine Ecological Park, Taiwan. The train station's footbridge, complete with ears and tail, connects to Cat Village, where some 80 cats roam. Catsl York cats dow all su www arou

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Belgium's Kattenstoet (Festival of the Cats). This parade and festival, commemorating the cat in the Middle Ages, is held every three years. This year, it happens on Sunday, May 10.

14 Cat'n Around Catskill, New

york. Statuesque cats line the countown streets di summer. Info: www.cat-mround.com

spain's Cat's Houre, Lloret Mar. Original works of art damonstrate the relationship between people and cats. Info: www.cats museum com

16 Moon Cat val, Lloret de Mar, Spain (Feb. 28 to July 3, 2015), is a celebration of felines through art, literature, dance and music.

TZ Japan's Sanrio Puroland, and Hello Kitty's Kawaii Paradise at Tama New Town, Tokyo. There are plenty of famous characters at this theme park, including Hello kitty

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The Cat Boat (De Poezenboot), Amsterdam. The world's only cat boat, this floating cat sanctuary is one of the city's main tourist attractions. Info: www.poezenboot.nl

19 The Algonquin Hotel, New York City, Famous resident feline Matilda is a real hit with guests, playing host to her birthday party and the popular feline fashion show. Info: 212-840-6800; www.algonquinhotel.com

The Los Angeles Feline Film Festival (Fall 2015). Presented by Organikat and the Walker Art Center, this annual event is full of fun, cat videos and famous cats.

21 The musical Cats at locations worldwide. Cats set records, running 21 years in London and 18 years on Broadway.

22 Tama the Station Master, Kishi Station, Japan. Tama works four days a week

and has her own office at Wakayama Electric Railway.

23 Le Bristol, Paris. Famous and Kléopatre watch over this leading Parisian palace hotel signifying the French art de vivre, delighting visitors. Info: www.lebristolparis.com/eng

Lithuania. More than 10,000 cat-related exhibits and about 4,000 poems are an absolute delight.

25 Emporium, London. Named after Alice's cat in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, the city's first cat café has 11 resident felines. Info: http://ladydinahs.com

CAT EMPORIUM

The Cat Boat (De Poezenboot), in Amsterdam, is the world's only floating cat sanctuary.

The hotel's most famous resident Kaspar the Cat, a 3-foot-high wood sculpture of a regal feline, dines with guests at the hotel's Savoy Grill. Info: www. fairmont.com/

The Savoy,

Le Café des Chats, Paris. Twelve cats are on standby to help caffeine lovers relax while stroking a kitty and sipping a cappuccino.

savoy-london

28 The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium, San Jose, California. A myriad of cat images from ancient Egypt, including mummies, fascinate cat aficionados. Info: 408-947-3635 http:// www.egyptian**29**Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York. The ongoing display, Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt, explores cats in Egyptian mythology, kingship and everyday life. Info: 718-638-5000; www.brooklyn museum.org

30 Metropolitan Museum 30 of Art, New York City. An unusual but striking bronze Cat Statuette is believed to contain a mummified cat. Info: 212-535-7710; www.met museum.org

31 The British Museum, London. The sculptured Gayer-Anderson cat is considered to be a sacred representation of the Egyptiar goddess Bastet. Info: www. britishmuseum.org

32cago. An ancient Egyptian tomb includes a shrine to the Egyptian goddess Bastet.

33 Louvre, Paris. Cats. including a sculpture of a goddess in animal form,

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are on display in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities. Info: www.louvre.fr/en

34 Ce Kattenkabinet (The Cat Cabinet), Amsterdam.

Devoted to art representing cats, the feline works are displayed to make visitors smile.

Cat Museum of San Francisco. A

series of popup shows will don city streets in summer and online at www. catmuseumsf. org until they find a permanent residence.

Moscow Cat Museum, Russia. With everything connected to the theme Cat in Art and Life, there's a permanent display of art inspired by felines. Info: www.moscowcatmuseum.

Cat Museum, Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia. Almost everything is related to cats, including an Egyptian mummified cat and an extraordinary number of cat figurines. Cat Art Show, LA 2, Los Angeles. This art exhibit focusing on cats will return in January 2015, featuring more than 100 artists. Info: http://catartshow.com/

America's Family Pet Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa

Mesa, California (April 10 to



40 The World of Dogs & Cats and Pet Exhibition (WODAC), Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, South Africa (July 17 to 19, 2015). WODAC includes the National Cat Show Finals. Info: www.dogscats.co.za

41 Ohio's Lucky Cat Museum, Cincinnati. Open by appointment only, the museum features a collection of more than 700 Japanese waving cats. Info: 513-633-3923

42 KitTea, San Francisco's first cat café. Scheduled to open by early 2015, the café will be separate from the cat lounge where 10 to 12 felines will be available for snuggles.

43 Cat Town Café, a new venture in Oakland, California. Slated to be open by 2015, this café will be promoting cat adoptions, as well as up-close-and-personal time with the felines.

Paws Around the World, Portland, Oregon (Jan. 23 to 25, 2015). Part of The International Cat Show lineup, this show, with 250 cats, is a Pacific Northwest favorite. Info: www.tica.org

45 Fanciers' Association's World Show, Oaks, Pennsylvania (Nov. 21-22, 2015). Two concurrent cat shows in one feature 1,000 felines. Info: www.cfainc.org

46 Capital Cat Show, The East Coast's Premier CFA Cat Show, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia (Sept. 2015). This event showcases 450 cats. Info: www.nationalcap italcatshow.com

47 Fédération Internationale Féline (FIFe) World Show, Malmö, Sweden (Oct. 24 to 25, 2015). Cats from around the globe will be vying for top place. Info: www1.fifeweb.org

48 Royal Queensland Show, Ekka, Queensland,

Australia (Aug. 7 to 16, 2015). More than 40 breeds of cats and kittens will be displayed and judged at this event. Info: www. royalqueenslandshow.com.au

The 19th Annual "On Safari" Bengal Congress and TICA Cat Show, Albuquerque, New Mexico (March 27 to 29, 2015). This show increases awareness about Bengals.

50 The Orange Cat Cafe, Kingfield, Maine. Named in honor of one special orange tabby, Les, it's a great stop for cappuccino, coffee and a little cat nostalgia. Info: 207-265-2860; www.orangecatcafe.com

BJ Bangs is an award-winning journalist/blogger/freelance writer and photographer, who absolutely loves cats. Residing in rural New England with her five felines, she blogs at www.bjbangs.net (Paws for Reflection) and contributes to a number of regional and national publications. When she isn't writing about cats, she's writing about other things.



While the cat isn't always on premise, the Orange Cat Cate Offers lots of cat nostalgia.