TRAVEL AD

VAN GOGH EXPERIENCE residence and workshop participants can stay even in colder weather. Aiming to become a year-round operation, Watershed has added several modern cabins where artists in residence and workshop participants can stay even in colder weather.

Weekly Travel Dispatch newsletter article misstated the date of a Blackfoot River Brewing Company event. A correction was made on May 31, 2023.

Tour local artists open their studios during the two-day weekend. Tour local artists open their studios during the two-day weekend. Tour local artists open their studios during the two-day weekend. Tour local artists open their studios during the two-day weekend. Tour local artists open their studios during the two-day weekend.

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Tipping the scale from the utilitarian to the artful has long been the passion of the pottery program, the bulbous terra-cotta vase my mom made at Watershed. Among its residents, Seagrove counts eighth- and ninth-generation potters, as well as a growing number of young apprentices and clay artists who are looking to share their passion.

Now, many of those potters are looking to share their passion, and find their work is at the forefront of emerging ceramic trends. Among these trends is a move toward functional and decorative pieces made with clay and fired in the kiln, a shift that has been driven by a growing interest in the craft.

The state-of-the-art pottery studio at Watershed is equipped with 35 work tables, numerous electric potter's wheels and a glaze-spraying station, as well as a variety of tools and equipment designed to help artists create unique pieces. The studio is open to the public, and offers a variety of classes and workshops for all levels of experience.

The writer's two pieces. Because there wasn't enough time in the workshop to fire bowls for my family, a little cave for my fish, knickknacks for my friends, and one another. During the height of the H.I.V./AIDS crisis in the 1980s, the writer said, they found solace in the art form.

Pottery wheel sales doubled and tripled during the pandemic, said Bryan Vansell, the owner and president of the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts in Newcastle, Maine. "We've seen a lot of people who were looking to get their hands dirty, with others at summer residencies, classes and workshops at places like Watershed." The writer was one of those people, and found the experience transformative.

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For the writer, the sense of purpose it gave them was a welcome distraction from the stresses of everyday life. "I was able to take a step back and see the big picture," they said. "I was able to focus on the things that mattered most to me, and that's what I found in pottery."
• The right equipment can make a big difference when traveling. Wirecutter recommends the best carry-on luggage and the gear you can’t leave without.