MARCH 23, 2026

WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES

THE MOST EXCITING DESTINATIONS TO VISIT RIGHT NOW

TIME

SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

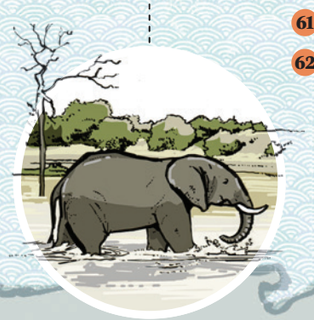
Aboard Silolona Sojourns' *Si Datu Bua* in Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia

+

New Zealand's Flockhill resort
Universal Epic Universe
V&A East Storehouse
Songtsam Lodge Cizhong
& 95 more

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES

Our annual list of the most interesting destinations around the globe takes you from remote mountains to bustling cities. Explore the rest of our top 100 spots to stay and visit at **ti.me/wgp**



NORTH AMERICA

1. **Art City,** Tucumcari, N.M.
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3. **Counterculture Museum,** San Francisco
4. **Dearborn Inn,** Dearborn, Mich.
5. **Deer Valley Resort,** Park City, Utah
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7. **The Frick Collection,** New York City
8. **Hotel del Coronado,** Coronado, Calif.
9. **Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum,** Indianapolis
10. **Lime Out St. Thomas,** Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas
11. **Moonpass Lookouts,** Wallace, Idaho
12. ***MSC World America,*** The Caribbean
13. **Museo Casa Kahlo,** Mexico City
14. **Naagan,** Owen Sound, Ontario
15. **Netflix House Philadelphia,** King of Prussia, Pa.
16. **Okana Resort & Indoor Waterpark,** Oklahoma City
17. **One&Only Moonlight Basin,** Big Sky, Mont.
18. **Princeton University Art Museum,** Princeton, N.J.
19. **The ReefLine,** Miami Beach
20. **Quercus,** Gay, Ga.
21. **Savvia,** Mexico City
22. **Shortgrass Resort,** Spearfish, S.D.
23. **Studio Museum in Harlem,** New York City
24. **Universal Epic Universe,** Orlando

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

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26. **Casa Gastón,** Jirira, Bolivia
27. **El Camino de Costa Rica,** Costa Rica
28. **Ephedra Restaurant,** San Pedro de Atacama, Chile
29. **Estancia Mercedes,** Puerto Natales, Chile
30. **Nariz del Diablo,** Andean Highlands, Ecuador
31. **Nekajui,** Peninsula Papagayo, Costa Rica
32. **Pared Sur Camp,** Puerto Guadal, Chile
33. **Perso,** Buenos Aires
34. **Tinajani,** Altiplano, Peru

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35. **Aliée Istanbul,** Istanbul
36. **Art Zoo Museum,** Amsterdam
37. **Avantgarde Refined Caves of Cappadocia,** Cappadocia, Turkey
38. **Blow Up Hall,** Poznan, Poland
39. **Fenix,** Rotterdam
40. **Hotel Plesnik,** Solcava, Slovenia
41. **Huus Quell by Appenzeller Huus,** Gonten, Switzerland
42. **Love Malmo,** Malmo, Sweden
43. **Maid of Somerset,** Castle Cary, England
44. **PAZ,** Torshavn, Faeroe Islands
45. **Ress Spa,** Torshavn, Faeroe Islands
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47. **V&A East Storehouse,** London
48. ***Varg* Sail Yacht,** Norway

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50. **andBeyond Suyian Lodge,** Suyian Conservancy, Kenya
51. **Grand Egyptian Museum,** Cairo
52. **Jnane Karwan,** Marrakesh, Morocco
53. **Masiya's Camp at Royal Malewane,** Kruger National Park, South Africa
54. **Park Hyatt Johannesburg,** Johannesburg
55. **The Pinnacle Kigali,** Kigali, Rwanda

SOUTH POLE

56. **Aurora Expeditions *Douglas Mawson,*** The Southern Ocean

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58. **Jumeirah Marsa Al Arab,** Dubai
59. **Lawh Wa Qalam: M.F. Husain Museum,** Doha, Qatar
60. **Six Flags Qiddiya City,** Qiddiya City, Saudi Arabia
61. **Surf Abu Dhabi,** Abu Dhabi
62. **Zayed National Museum,** Abu Dhabi

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64. **Murujuga Cultural Landscape,** Pilbara, Australia
65. **On Board Tasmanian Expedition Cruises,** Tasmania, Australia
66. **Sea Sea Hotel,** Crescent Head, Australia
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68. **Tala,** Auckland

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74. **DaiDib DaiDee,** Pua, Thailand
75. **Dib Bangkok,** Bangkok
76. **Fufu Tokyo Ginza,** Tokyo
77. **Home Tale Laya,** Laya, Bhutan
78. **House of Tan Yeok Nee,** Singapore
79. **House of Tugu Old Town Jakarta,** Jakarta
80. **Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge,** Guizhou, China
81. **Hunza Serena Hotel,** Hunza Valley, Pakistan
82. **Ise-Jingu,** Ise, Japan
83. **Kai Tak Sports Park,** Hong Kong
84. **Kaway'an EcoPark,** General Trias, Philippines
85. **Khao Yai Art Forest,** Pong Ta Long, Thailand
86. **Maana Living,** Kyoto
87. **Mandarin Oriental,** Bangkok
88. **Mharo Khet,** Jodhpur, India
89. **Mountain Lodges of Nepal Manang,** Manang, Nepal
90. **Norden Camp,** Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, China
91. **Oberoi Rajgarh Palace,** Rajgarh, India
92. **Rainforest Wild Asia,** Singapore
93. **Ratnange Trail Center,** Phaplu, Nepal
94. **Risonare Shimonoseki,** Shimonoseki, Japan
95. **Shakti Himalaya Prana Lodge,** Kumaon, India
96. **The Silk Lakehouse,** Hangzhou, China
97. **Silolona Sojourns *Si Datu Bua,*** Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia
98. **Six Senses Laamu,** Laamu Atoll, Maldives
99. **Songtsam Lodge Cizhong,** Yunnan, China
100. **Soori Penang,** George Town, Malaysia

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYNDON HAYES FOR TIME

Deer Valley Resort, Park City, Utah

A SKI GIANT GROWS

Amid Utah's legendary ski resorts, none is as bougie as the ski-only Deer Valley. Now add "extra roomy" following the recent unveiling of 2,900 acres of fresh ski terrain with nearly 100 new ski runs, nine chairlifts, and a 10-passenger gondola spanning three miles. The resort has more than doubled its size, now at 4,300 acres, making it the largest single ski resort expansion in North American history.

Head straight for the rare high-alpine beginner's area atop 9,350 ft. Park Peak, with gentle runs wrapped in Wasatch panoramas. Or drop into clouds on advanced groomers on Redemption Ridge and the 4.8-mile Green Monster, one of the longest runs in the U.S. All of it funnels into a new base area, opening up an access point to Deer Valley that skirts the busy inroads to Park City. Also notable: the Grand Hyatt Deer Valley, opened in 2024 with a spa and a 7,000-sq.-ft. outdoor pool deck.

—Nina Kokotas Hahn

Six Senses Laamu, Laamu Atoll, Maldives

MARINE MISSION

At Six Senses Laamu, marine biologists are as integral to the barefoot luxury experience as the sommeliers and chefs. Just beyond the overwater villas sits a purpose-built research center hosting resident NGOs and one of the most ambitious resort-based conservation programs in the world. In the wake of the 2024 global bleaching event that devastated reefs around the world, the Maldives Underwater Initiative released 3 million coral larvae reared on-site to repopulate damaged reefs. Its sister organization developed the country's first resort-based sustainable fishing program. Another project leads turtle research across Laamu Atoll. What makes Laamu singular is not just the scale of the science happening on-site, but the access to it. Guests can explore the labs, galleries, and amphitheater; dive alongside working biologists; earn PADI manta specialty certification; and help identify and monitor threatened species.

—Jonny Bierman

Songtsam Lodge Cizhong, Yunnan, China

OPENING DOORS TO THE HINTERLANDS

China's rapid urbanization has drawn people and investment toward megacities like Shanghai and Shenzhen, leaving much of rural China—with its vast wilderness and deep-rooted traditions—less accessible to visitors.

Now travelers are venturing farther out to the country's remote regions. Rural areas have experienced a surge of visitors in the post-COVID years because of increased government infrastructure and a growing desire among Chinese urbanites to escape the cities, according to China's Culture and Tourism Ministry. The country's recent easing of tourist visa rules, with an expanded 10-day visa-free policy that allows travel across multiple regions for visitors from over 50 countries, also helped.

Founded by Yunnan native Baima Duoji, a former CCTV documentary filmmaker, Songtsam Resort Group is leading the push. The upmarket, independent brand has cultivated a network of 18 inns throughout rural China. Following a meticulous two-year renovation, Songtsam Lodge Cizhong is one of its newest entrants. It reopened in August in the southwestern province of Yunnan, set at 7,218-ft. elevation in the eastern Himalayas. The contemporary stone and wood resort sits amid walnut trees and prayer flags on the steep banks of the Lancang River (upper Mekong). As the brand's first wine resort, it pays homage to French missionaries who brought winemaking to the region in 1867, yet today it remains a vibrant mix of Tibetan, Han, Bai, and Naxi traditions, where visitors can experience excursions to the alpine lakes at Nanjiluo, private vineyard tastings, and local meals with lashings of butter tea, smoked and preserved pipa meat, and rice and vegetable dishes cooked in walnut oil. The expansion took the property to 26 rooms, each with carved wooden window frames, locally woven rugs, and private balconies overlooking the river and vineyards that grow chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, and *meiguimi*—a native tannic red grape.

THE LODGE OFFERS VIEWS OF A RIVER LANDSCAPE IN A REMOTE AREA OF THE HIMALAYAS

"My father is passionate about Tibetan culture, nature, and storytelling," says Baima's daughter Florence Li, Songtsam's vice president. "In 2000, he turned our ancestral home into Songtsam Lodge Shangri-La. By creating this brand and expanding it throughout the Himalayas, we are able to continue his mission of championing Tibetan and local cultures."

The brand's pipeline of developments furthers its reputation for revitalizing rural Chinese culture in places that rarely see thoughtful, high-end development. A new Yading route, launched in 2024, brings visitors to previously inaccessible Himalayan trekking paths, home to Tibetan monasteries and rare flora and fauna like golden snub-nosed monkeys, snow leopards, red pandas, and blue poppies. The Songtsam Linka Retreat, slated to open this spring in Kunming, is designed by 2012 Pritzker laureate Wang Shu with a spa and Tibetan-inspired treatments.

—Adam H. Graham

ALL IMAGES COURTESY THE LOCATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WITH REPORTING BY CHARLOTTE HU

Huus Quell by Appenzeller Huus, Gonten, Switzerland

A NEW MODEL FOR SWISS WELLNESS

Appenzell, in northeastern Switzerland, is best known for its cows, cheese, and painted farmhouses. So when Huus Quell opened in October as a five-star, cutting-edge wellness retreat, it stood out. The hotel's main draw is the 23,000-sq.-ft. Quell Spa, one of the most tech-focused wellness centers in the country, anchored by a longevity program that includes cryotherapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, infrared treatments, and precision diagnostics, which the resort says are aimed at cellular regeneration. The spa has pools, saunas, treatment rooms, and a floating yoga platform. Guests have access to Switzerland's largest wine cellar, part of the broader Appenzeller Huus complex, which includes two sister hotels. Programming ranges from yodeling choirs and foraging to guided mountain bathing. A new cultural forum, set to open this year, will host concerts, design residencies, and culinary events. Huus Quell's offerings signal a shift in Swiss wellness culture: deprivation is out, longevity and endurance are in.

—Devorah Lev-Tov

THE HOTEL LOOKS OVER THE DRAMATIC MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN SWITZERLAND

Masiya's Camp at Royal Malewane, Kruger National Park, South Africa

SAFARI IN STYLE

Game drives: check. Big Five sightings: check. Sundowners in the bush: check. Hot-pink tents: . . . also check. The candy-colored canvas at the new six-suite Masiya's Camp at Royal Malewane, just outside Kruger National Park, is the brainchild of owner Liz Biden, whose fearless sensibility has made her Royal Portfolio properties cult favorites among design lovers. Named for Royal Malewane's beloved master tracker Wilson Masiya, who died in 2015, Masiya's Camp gleefully flips safari clichés on their heads with striped walls, jewel-toned furnishings, Persian rugs underfoot, and a standout African art collection. Traditionalists may mourn the loss of khaki and dusty animal hides—but once you settle onto a teal-and-fuchsia ikat barstool, you won't miss them for a second. *—Sarah Khan*

Estancia Mercedes, Puerto Natales, Chile

AN IMMERSIVE STAY

Estancia Mercedes offers something elusive: the chance to really sink into the bones of a place. The fifth-generation cattle ranch launched a Rural Farm School in October that invites families—including children ages 8 and up—to take part in the work itself. Over four days, guests join horseback rides through thick forest, then out along mussel-strewn beaches. They learn horsemanship, fence construction and repair, firewood prep, sheep shearing, cattle herding, organic gardening and foraging, and how to cook the rib-sticking comfort fare that fuels life this far south. Activities are led by family members: Sebastián García Iglesias, a legendary gaucho; his wife, skilled cook and host Grissel González Lasa; and their daughter, Naitiry García González. With no internet in the rooms, memories are logged in journals and bonds form over long, shared meals, as guests and gauchos sit shoulder to shoulder. It's immersive, a little muddy, and deeply human. *—Ashlea Halpern*

THE RANCH, FOUNDED IN 1916, IS A BASE FOR HORSEBACK RIDES AND MUCH MORE

Surf Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi

PERFECT WAVES

Surf pools are riding a wave of popularity. Recent openings include Europe's largest inland wave pool, Lost Shore Surf Resort in Edinburgh, and Atlantic Surf Park in Virginia Beach, backed by Pharrell Williams—with more under way around the world.

But the new Surf Abu Dhabi in the UAE is the first to break through the pro surf world's skepticism about manufactured waves. Surfing legend Kelly Slater spent a decade developing the wave technology, and partnered with local developer Modon Holding to open the facility, which pulls water from the sea, offering salty swells with a backdrop of the city's shimmering skyscrapers. It has already earned three Guinness World Records including the world's longest artificial surfing wave and largest wave pool. Even more impressive: Surf Abu Dhabi will become the first artificial wave to join a surfing championship circuit in 2026. One of its waves, called Kelly's Wave, is now World Surf League–certified, featuring two distinct barrels and high-speed turn sections.

Ryan Watkins, Surf Abu Dhabi's general manager, says the facility's primary aim is simple: to produce the best waves, period. "There's no natural surf break in the world that runs perfection 365 days a year, but ours does," he says. "We run the wave roughly every three minutes and 40 seconds—the interval that allows the basin to settle so each wave is perfect." That level of consistency can be a major draw. It's also the ideal environment for beginners, with constant waves, no dangerous reefs or marine life to contend with, and no locals-only lineup.

There's a palpable sense of energy at Surf Abu Dhabi. Spectators can cheer tube rides and first-time stand-ups from the waterside restaurant, buy a day pass to the infinity pool and sun beds, or spend the afternoon at Mediterranean beach-club-style Ilios. Surf sessions start at 3,500 UAE dirham ($953) for 90 minutes of open surf, yet demand remains strong. About 65% of clients are international, with regulars returning multiple times a month, some stopping over en route to Asian surf destinations and others flying in from across the Middle East. And there's reason to believe the sport's embrace of artificial waves will only grow. As advances in wave tech and surfing's 2021 Olympic debut have fueled the rise of surf pools, natural waves have become less predictable—a trend likely to continue, because of climate change. "Some studies suggest that waves will become more powerful in parts of the world and less powerful in others," says Chad Nelsen, CEO of the Surfrider Foundation. "To date, that has not dramatically impacted surf competitions, but climate change is also causing increased sea-level rise and is impacting the health of ocean ecosystems, like coral reefs, and that will likely impact surf spots around the globe." In Abu Dhabi, however, the surf will always be up.

—Nicola Chilton

THE ARTIFICIAL WAVE POOL'S CONSISTENCY IS IDEAL FOR PROS AND BEGINNERS

CHILE: TOMAS MUNITA—COURTESY ESTANCIA MERCEDES; ABU DHABI: MAX PHYSICK—WORLD SURF LEAGUE/GETTY IMAGES

Maana Living, Kyoto

CREATIVE CRAFT

Opened in September, Maana Living is a design-forward boutique that introduces visitors to the world of Maana, a hospitality brand shaped by Japanese craft and tradition. Wooden shelves and a low central table display delicate ceramic teacups, bamboo vessels, *warosoku* candles, and incense sourced from Japan's oldest incense maker. Traditional *tsuchikabe* walls showcase hand-twisted *warazaiku* (straw crafts), while pendant lights from Kyoto-based sculptor Ren Nakane lend the space a soft warmth. Founded by childhood friends Hana Tsukamoto and Irene Chang, Maana Living functions as both shop and entry point. Many of the objects for sale also appear inside Maana Homes, the brand's collection of renovated *machiya* townhouses across the city. Maana Atelier hosts hands-on workshops in the historic Nishijin district, while immersive multiday retreats—focused on food, home design, or pottery—let visitors learn techniques from the artisans behind the work. *—Rebekah Peppler*

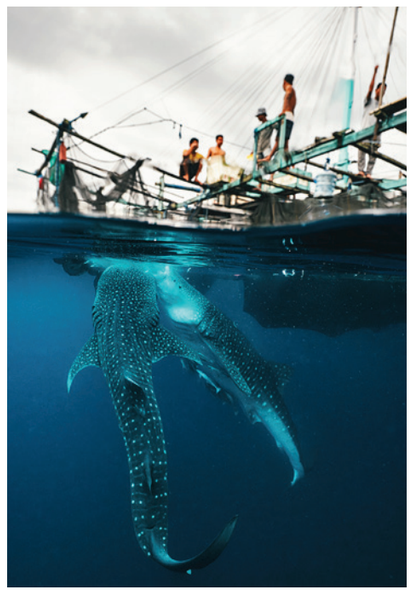
Silolona Sojourns *Si Datu Bua*, Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia

FACE-TO-FACE WITH GIANTS

If swimming alongside a 25-ft. whale shark is a humbling experience, what does that make being encircled by seven of them? That rare possibility draws travelers to Teluk Cenderawasih National Park—and to journeys aboard *Si Datu Bua,* a three-cabin *phinisi* yacht operated by Silolona Sojourns, which offers private charters through one of the world's richest whale shark habitats. Cenderawasih Bay is a known gathering spot for the gentle aquatic megafauna. Exploring the region's islands and biodiverse ecosystems—home to over 200 coral species and 800 varieties of fish—is best done by sea. New guidelines in 2025 established standards for responsible tourism and certified tour operators like Silolona as a way visitors can contribute to conservation efforts. *Si Datu Bua* features teak cabins lined with Indonesian artisan crafts and ample lounging space. But the greatest luxury may be the chance to experience the marine wonders of the bay with hardly another tourist in sight.

—Matt Dutile

▼ RANGERS RECORDED MORE THAN 500 WHALE SHARKS IN THESE WATERS IN 2025



V&A East Storehouse, London

WHERE THE COLLECTION COMES TO YOU

Many museums' permanent collections have so far outgrown their galleries that only a fraction of their holdings can ever be exhibited at once, but the new V&A East Storehouse is taking a radically different approach.

Opened in London in May, the newest offshoot of the Victoria & Albert Museum reimagines the museumgoing experience as a two-way conversation, not a top-down monologue. It's an ambitious hybrid: part storage facility, part research center, part interactive access point for the V&A's vast collection of decorative arts and design objects. The real game changer is the Order an Object system, which lets guests search a digital catalog of more than half a million items and select up to five pieces to be pulled from the shelves and presented one-on-one by a museum staffer for up-close inspection during a future visit.

"The vision for Order an Object was to bring people closer to the V&A's collection than ever before," says Kate Parsons, director of collections care and access. "It was very important that any person could access any object for any reason, even if it was just to see something that made them happy."

The public response has been enthusiastic; visitors have booked nearly 30,000 objects since the opening. "That's 30,000 objects that otherwise would have remained in storage, unseen," says Parsons. Items from the Storehouse's David Bowie Centre, home to the music icon's complete archive of costumes, instruments, and ephemera, have been popular bookings since the collection debuted in September. One person crossed an ocean to view a distant ancestor's wedding dress. And staff are finding visitor requests helpful as a guidepost in deciding future exhibitions.

▲ A STAGE CLOTH FOR THE BALLETS RUSSES BY PABLO PICASSO AT V&A EAST STOREHOUSE

The Storehouse has inspired a flood of inquiries from other museums interested in following its lead, part of a global push to foster greater interactivity and community access to museum archives. In the past year, Brazil's São Paulo Museum of Art has dramatically expanded its footprint to show more of its collection of European, Brazilian, African, and Indigenous art (only 1% of which was previously on view). In Paris, the Fondation Cartier introduced a dedicated facility for community education and hands-on workshops. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has developed virtual-reality experiences for both in-person and remote visitors to examine some of its largest objects, like the ancient Egyptian Temple of Dendur and a Kwoma ceremonial house ceiling from New Guinea.

On April 18, the V&A will launch its next collaborative project: the V&A East, a companion museum that will focus on local artists, global culture, and the changemaking power of creativity. Developed in partnership with area makers and community groups, the museum will celebrate its opening with a festival tied to its inaugural exhibit, "The Music Is Black: A British Story."

—Valerie Rains

INDONESIA: MATT DUTILE; LONDON: HUFTON+CROW—V&A EAST STOREHOUSE; SINGAPORE: DARREN SOH; MOROCCO: HIND LARRICHI

House of Tan Yeok Nee, Singapore

A MANSION REBORN

One of Singapore's most elaborate historic homes is now open to the public. The House of Tan Yeok Nee is a rare example of Teochew architecture and the sole survivor of the city's Four Grand Mansions, built by wealthy merchants during a 19th century trading boom. Following a renovation that cost 100 million Singaporean dollars and enlisted 30 master craftsmen, it reopened in November as an art and lifestyle hub. Today it houses four gallery spaces, an event hall, and a fine-dining restaurant, with a bar forthcoming.

But the real draw lies in the craftsmanship: phoenixes assembled from porcelain shards crown the rooflines, beams are hand-painted with 24-karat gold, and even the drainpipes take the form of flourishing pomegranate trees. Architectural imprints from the house's past—like Gothic lancet windows added when an orphanage used the space as a chapel—add to its singular character.

—Audrey Phoon

Jnane Karwan, Marrakech, Morocco

A CITY DESERT CAMP

Marrakech's *zellige*-tiled design scene is booming, and one newcomer hotel stands out. Opened in October, Jnane Karwan is a tented desert retreat conceived by Senegalese West Indian hospitality pioneer Meryanne Loum-Martin to elevate Amazigh (Berber nomad) culture. Set among rammed-earth ruins, Karwan comprises five tents—four for guests, including two with private pools, plus a gallery space for events—furnished with art and antiques from across the Maghreb. Guests have the run of the oasis, from the heated swimming pool to shaded gathering spaces. Programming includes events like an annual Diaspora Salon bringing artists, writers, and cultural figures of African ancestry together. This blend of place, purpose, and lived culture makes Jnane Karwan one of the city's most meaningful new stays.

—Cynthia Rosenfeld

Norden Camp, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, China

LIFE ON THE PLATEAU

Founded in 2013 by nomad turned entrepreneur Yidam Kyap, Norden Camp began as a seasonal base for urban travelers to experience rural life in China's remote Gansu province. The camp sits near one of Tibetan Buddhism's most important monasteries and close to Kyap's maternal roots on the Sangke grasslands. In May, Norden reopened after a complete rebuild. Architect Blake Civiello worked with local carpenters and stonemasons, sourcing regional materials for the new glass-and-timber structures, including nine cabins, and handwoven yak-hair tents serve as communal spaces. Days are spent chanting with monks, learning to milk yaks, attending horse festivals, or hiking to nomad family picnics with homemade momo dumplings and tsampa cookies. The riverside bathhouse's private saunas and indoor-outdoor showers offer a sleek counterpoint to life on the plateau.

—Cynthia Rosenfeld

Universal Epic Universe, Orlando

THE THEME PARK TO END ALL THEME PARKS

The 110-acre Universal Epic Universe—Universal Orlando Resort's fourth park and the first new theme park to open in Orlando in a quarter-century—lives up to the hype. Guests enter each of its five themed worlds through immersive portals. In Super Nintendo World, visitors pop through the green warp pipe into the Mushroom Kingdom, then choose their own adventure: one rattles through Donkey Kong Country, while another turns an augmented-reality race into a coin-collecting game. The showstopper sets belong to Wizarding World of Harry Potter–Ministry of Magic and its 1920s Parisian streetscapes, while talking portraits and animatronics entertain queuing guests at the Battle at the Ministry ride. For extreme thrills, Stardust Racers, a dual-launch coaster, speeds up to 62 m.p.h. Other worlds orbit a fantastical carousel. Three new Universal hotels also opened in 2025.

—Terry Ward

Aurora Expeditions *Douglas Mawson*, The Southern Ocean

POLAR TRIP

The cruise industry has long overlooked, and often penalized, solo travelers with hefty single supplements—the charge paid by those who board without a buddy. But Aurora Expeditions has eliminated single supplements across its fleet, and offers 10 single-occupancy staterooms per voyage on each of its three ships. The *Douglas Mawson,* launched in December, even includes dedicated solo cabins. Named for the man who led Australia's first major scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1911, the 154-passenger ship marks Aurora's return to East Antarctica for the first time in 15 years.

Sustainability is built into the ship's design. Its wave-piercing hull reduces fuel consumption; GPS-powered virtual anchoring protects fragile seabeds; and industry-first microfiber filtration captures 99% of laundry microplastics, according to the company. Aurora also funds kelp planting and waste removal for every passenger.

—Jonny Bierman

▼ THE SHIP HAS A SAUNA, HEATED OUTDOOR POOL, AND TWO JACUZZIS

Art Zoo Museum, Amsterdam

WONDERS GONE WILD

In the corner of one of Amsterdam's most elegant 17th century canal houses, a cheetah leaps from an antique tabernacle. Angry swans brood and colorful birds perch atop old cages. A 16-ft. crocodile hangs from the ceiling. Amsterdam's wildest new cultural establishment, Art Zoo Museum elevates taxidermy to high art, arranging hundreds of animals and natural objects into quirky *tableaux vivants* inspired by the Dutch Golden Age. The museum was conceived by Dutch taxidermy artists Jaap Sinke and Ferry van Tongeren, who designed the space as a modern-day *wunderkammer,* echoing the curiosity cabinets once found in wealthy European homes. In a cheeky role reversal, visitors step inside massive custom-made cages to view the animals, and skeletons of extinct species confront visitors with questions of human responsibility.

—Karen Burshtein

▲ A T-REX SKELETON IS PART OF ONE OF THE *TABLEAUX VIVANTS* IN THE CANAL HOUSE

andBeyond Suyian Lodge, Suyian Conservancy, Kenya

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO A VAST CONSERVANCY

Perched on the eastern escarpment of the Great Rift Valley, with Mount Kenya on the horizon and expansive views of granite kopjes, giraffe-dotted plains, and the winding Ewaso Narok River below, andBeyond Suyian Lodge opened last July in Kenya's less-visited Laikipia region. It is the sole camp within the unfenced 44,000-acre Suyian Conservancy, a former cattle ranch that now serves as a vital wildlife corridor. The exclusive access allows for unusually varied encounters, from tracking wild dogs or the elusive black leopard on twice-daily game drives, or spotting a Verreaux eagle on a guided walk, to encountering the spectacularly striped Grevy's zebra on horseback safari. Back at the lodge, communal spaces and 14 suites blend textured stone, indigenous plants, and neutral tones, each offering striking views. And the camp partners with international conservation organization Space for Giants to support wildlife protection and local communities.

—Rebekah Peppler

CHINA: JEROME GALLAND—COURTESY NORDEN CAMP

Hotel Plesnik, Solcava, Slovenia

ALPINE FINESSE

Tucked into Slovenia's remote Logar Valley, a protected glacial basin at the edge of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, Hotel Plesnik is quietly recasting the idea of alpine dining. In March 2025, the family-run hotel unveiled Restaurant Plesnik, an intimate 18-seat fine-dining room where chef Tom Copar, guided by Slovenian culinary pioneer Janez Bratovz, builds tasting menus almost entirely from the surrounding valley. Plates might feature morels growing behind the hotel, *sirnek* (cottage cheese) fermented with wild herbs, slow-cooked lamb from the neighboring Matk farm, chervil and crispy egg yolk, or *beraceva torba,* a breakfast favorite prepared from leftover bread. The rigor of that hyperlocal, zero-waste approach earned the restaurant a Green Michelin Star. "We don't cook by seasons, but by weeks," says Bratovz, as menus shift with snowfall, pasture cycles, and the short alpine summers. Away from the table, forest-facing saunas and spring-fed plunges echo the 42-room hotel's respect for natural rhythms—helping make the Logar Valley a destination for gastronomy-led alpine tourism. —*Anja Mutic*

Oberoi Rajgarh Palace, Rajgarh, India

BASE CAMP FOR SAFARI AND TEMPLE HOPPING

Set above a rain-fed lake in central India's Maniyagarh Hills, the Oberoi Rajgarh Palace occupies a meticulously restored 350-year-old residence of the Bundela dynasty. Opened in November, the 65-room resort features frescoed interiors, private pools, gardens, and terraces. What truly sets it apart is its proximity to singular experiences: Across the lake lies Panna National Park, a 200-sq.-mi. reserve known for its successful Bengal tiger repopulation program, as well as Indian leopards and sloth bears. Oberoi naturalists lead private safaris and guided excursions through nearby Raneh Gorge, where the Ken Sanctuary's pink granite canyon ends in a waterfall and protected gharial habitat. Cultural immersion is equally close. The palace historian escorts guests to the intricately carved, millennia-old Hindu and Jainist temples of the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a protected UNESCO World Heritage site 30 minutes away. —*Brett Berk*

Netflix House Philadelphia, King of Prussia, Pa.

BINGE-WATCHING BREAKS THE FOURTH WALL

You're posing on a red-velvet *Bridgerton* throne. You're following Wednesday's severed sidekick Thing into a haunted carnival. In November, Netflix opened its first permanent destination: Netflix House Philadelphia, an immersive two-story venue where familiar onscreen worlds spill out of the living room and into the wider world.

It's a new model for streamers, which have only dipped toes into the physical world. Marian Lee, Netflix's chief marketing officer, says the expansion into experiential entertainment gained momentum during the pandemic, after Netflix held its *Stranger Things* "Drive-Into" experience in 2020. "We didn't really anticipate [that] level of rabidness," she says. Since then, the company has rolled out hundreds of in-person experiences around the world, including *Bridgerton* balls and *KPop Demon Hunters* sing-alongs. "We decided this is worth doing on a more permanent basis," Lee says.

Not wanting to go full Disney World, Netflix opted for a more intimate and accessible—and Instagrammable—experience. Housed in a former department store at King of Prussia Mall, about 25 minutes outside Philadelphia, the more than 100,000-sq.-ft. space is free to explore. Visitors pass through a massive red envelope—a nod to the brand's early DVD-by-mail days—to a colorful atrium overflowing with artwork and show props. From gilded *Love Is Blind* goblets to menacing *Squid Game* guards, the space is engineered for photo ops.

Is it one big marketing campaign? Yes. Does that make it any less fun for fans? No. Hour-long paid adventures bring together meticulous set design and interactive storytelling. In the *One Piece* experience, teams race through themed rooms, each with a puzzle to solve, in pursuit of the elusive Devil Fruit. Across the hall, *Wednesday: Eve of the Outcasts* drops fans into a delightfully eerie carnival at Nevermore Academy, complete with bewitched games, a murder mystery, and secret passages to explore.

Three VR gaming rooms, a mini golf course inspired by shows like *Is It Cake?* and *Bridgerton,* a 229-seat theater for screenings and live events, and a stylish restaurant serving dishes and drinks inspired by Netflix productions (like the jumbo "Plot Twist" pretzel or WWE Smashedburger) make Netflix House a bona fide destination.

And Philadelphia is just the beginning. Netflix House Dallas opened in December, with the same free-to-enter, pay-as-you-go model. Each location has unique exhibits, and there, visitors can try a *Stranger Things* rescue mission, *Squid Game* challenges, and RePLAY, an interactive arcade. The next Netflix House—Las Vegas—will open in 2027, and Lee hopes to expand from there. But the company has no plans to pursue the megapark model. "I would love for this to be so successful that we're in every major city around the world," Lee says. "We want it to be a neighborhood hangout, a community place you can come back to again and again." —*Kate Springer*

▲ NETFLIX HOUSE IS HOUSED IN A FORMER MALL DEPARTMENT STORE

INDIA: COURTESY OBEROI HOTELS AND RESORTS

Tinajani, Altiplano, Peru

A REMOTE CAMP

At over 12,000 ft. above sea level, deep in southern Peru's Altiplano, Tinajani sits inside a 371-acre private reserve in the Cañón de Tinajani. Sculpted by wind and water over millennia, the canyon's towering red sandstone spires rise from open plains scattered with traces of ancient seabeds, petroglyphs, and pre-Inca burial caves.

The camp, opened in June, includes a restored farmhouse that serves as a communal hub, alongside six tented suites outfitted with alpaca-wool textiles, woodburning stoves, and outdoor soaking tubs. Guests explore the area on foot, bicycle, or car, and can join guided walks led by local shamans or stargaze beneath some of the clearest skies in South America. Run by the family-owned Peruvian travel operator Andean, Tinajani offers a new way to experience Peru's wilderness through cultural connection and design that honors the landscape. —*Sucheta Rawal*

Varg Sail Yacht, Norway

SAIL THE ARCTIC

With its obsidian-black hull and sails, *Varg* Sail Yacht cuts a striking figure in Norway's wintry fjords. The 62-ft. sailing yacht carries just six guests in its three cabins, a contrast to the cruise-ship behemoths that ply these waters. Built specifically for expeditions above the Arctic Circle, *Varg* is helmed by a three-person crew with deep experience sailing Greenland and Svalbard, and features include a reinforced bow, strengthened by a steel rod running to the keel for added protection in ice. Inside, the mood is pure hygge: a toasty saloon with a fireplace and wraparound windows to watch the landscape slide past. After days outdoors, guests warm up in a wood-fired sauna below deck or a hot tub up top. New year-round itineraries from Norrona Adventure range from winter orca and humpback-whale safaris in the Barents Sea—when the northern lights frequently shimmer overhead—to spring ski-and-sail trips in the Lyngen Alps. Summer brings exploration of the Lofoten Archipelago, reaching remote areas accessible only by sea. —*Terry Ward*

Flockhill, Craigieburn Valley, New Zealand

WILD FOOD, OPEN FLAME

FLOCKHILL IS NESTLED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTHERN ALPS

If you've ever wanted a national park all to yourself, Flockhill comes close. The 36,000-acre historic sheep station is nestled in New Zealand's Southern Alps. The original homestead is now joined by seven stand-alone villas, where cozy indoor and outdoor living spaces open onto uninterrupted mountain views. At its heart is Sugarloaf, a restaurant led by chef Taylor Cullen, who runs the property with his family. For the chef's table Cullen and his team cook over an open flame using ingredients foraged nearby, grown in the garden, or drawn from the on-site "ferment library"—coprosma berries, edible pine, wild hare, venison, and eel among them. Beyond the table, the station and surrounding area are a playground for fishing, rock climbing, horseback riding, and e-biking. Recovery comes at the new wellness spa, with sauna, cold plunge, and hot pool facing Sugarloaf Peak. —*Nora Walsh*

Lime Out St. Thomas, Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas

A FLOATING TAQUERIA

SWIM UP OR TAKE A WATER TAXI TO EAT TACOS AT ONE OF LIME OUT'S FLOATING PODS

Slow-braised short ribs with organic microgreens. Jerk-seasoned tuna with chipotle slaw. Smoked paprika black beans with tricolored quinoa. Not exactly the whatever's-in-the-cooler vibe you might expect from a day spent in the Caribbean's almost impossibly turquoise waters. But Lime Out St. Thomas, which opened in November, is anything but ordinary. Serving gourmet tacos and innovative cocktails (mezcal, soursop juice, and fresh lime, anyone?) from a solar-powered 53-ft. boat in Lindbergh Bay, it's the second floating restaurant from childhood friends who grew up on nearby St. John. Buoyed by the success of the original Lime Out St. John, the team has doubled down on its commitment to the U.S. Virgin Islands, supporting a scholarship program and sourcing from local farmers. Even landlubbers can partake, thanks to a Taco Taxi that shuttles between Emerald Beach Resort and Lime Out's floating pods.

—*Jessica Shaw*

Bhaya Soul, Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

A FLOATING WELLNESS RETREAT

Vietnam's natural wonder just got more restorative. *Bhaya Soul,* a 20-cabin vessel with a swimming-pool deck, has been traveling since July through the foliage-topped karsts and junk-boat throngs of Ha Long Bay. Positioning itself as the bay's first wellness-focused overnight cruise, it has cabins outfitted like boutique hotel rooms with bay-view soaking tubs and private terraces. The one- or two-night all-inclusive experience emphasizes mindfulness and local food, from multicourse meals featuring herbs and lotus stems from the Bhaya Community Village's organic farm to octopus and grouper caught in the bay. Mornings begin with singing-bowl meditation inside the Tien Ong Cave. Guests also cycle through the Viet Hai fishing village, receive a 40-minute foot massage that begins with a Vietnamese herbal ritual, and end their evenings with a guided sound meditation under the stars.

—*Kathryn Romeyn*

Avantgarde Refined Caves of Cappadocia, Cappadocia, Turkey

SHAPED BY STONE

THE HOTEL'S DESIGN TRACES NATURAL CONTOURS OF THE SURROUNDING ROCK FACES

Architect Efe Aydar describes his *kulunk*-sculpted designs at Avantgarde Refined Caves of Cappadocia as a collaboration with nature, tracing the natural contours of Cappadocia's rock faces rather than imposing upon them. The hotel's 46 quiet-luxury accommodations occupy grottoes carved over centuries by wind and erosion, including five suites set within a 19th century residence hewn from soft volcanic tuff for the pastor of nearby Aziz Georgios Church—a reminder of the region's Christian and Byzantine heritage. Inside, sinuous light fixtures echo the undulating stone walls, casting a soft glow across earthen-hued interiors. Guests can explore local vineyards, unwind at the 6,000-sq.-ft. cavern spa with traditional Turkish hammams, or engage with Cappadocia's contemporary creative life. Later this year, the Creatopia Arts & Culture Center will open on the property, with a sculpture park, cinema, artist residencies, and live performances that aim to reinvigorate the sociocultural fabric of Anatolia.

—*Cynthia Rosenfeld*

ST. THOMAS: COURTESY ISLAND MEDIA CO.

Ephedra Restaurant, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

PRESERVING ATACAMA

Sergio Armella studied law but pivoted during the pandemic to chase a new dream: training under chef Rasmus Kofoed at Copenhagen's three-Michelin-star restaurant Geranium. He made his way back to his native San Pedro de Atacama, an oasis in the world's driest nonpolar desert, to focus on the foods he grew up with. The result is Ephedra, a fine-dining restaurant improbably set in the Indigenous Licán Antai ayllu of Poconche, five miles outside town. Opened on a shoestring with partner Carolina Colque, the restaurant has just 12 tables. Diners choose from multicourse tasting menus featuring ingredients foraged from the Atacama, including *suiko,* a high-altitude herb with citrusy, menthol notes, and *pingo pingo,* whose reddish fruit—ephedra—gives the restaurant its name. "There are many elders who know about these plants," Armella says. "But if nobody documents that knowledge now, it could be lost forever." —*Mark Johanson*