

52 PLACES TO GO IN 2017



ANDY HASLAM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



DANIELLE VILLASANA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Istria, Croatia, and Bozcaada, Turkey At left, fishing towns like Novigrad, Croatia, have seen an influx of boutique lodgings. At right, the Turkish island of Bozcaada has vineyards, beaches and a latte-colored Ottoman castle. The cobblestone downtown area is traffic-free.

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Chinese street food) and David Muñoz's DiverXO (a three-Michelin-star melding of Ibero-Asiatic cuisines). And that is just A through D. All across town, markets and derelict buildings are being transformed into high-end food courts, like the gorgeous Platea in a former Art Deco cinema. Wash it all down with house-made spirits at Macera.

ANDREW FERREN

35. Ketchum, Idaho

A hideaway ski town emerges.

Photos of glitterati from Marilyn Monroe to Tom Hanks fill the walls at the newly rebuilt Sun Valley Lodge, testifying to its vintage associations with Hollywood. While the low-key town of Ketchum, home to Sun Valley's slopes

and Ernest Hemingway's grave, remains more "Papa" than Prada, new development suggests a more prominent future. The Aspen Skiing Company just opened the 99-room Lighthouse Hotel Ketchum, the first new hotel in about 20 years, with an outdoor pool and complimentary bikes. Auberge Resorts plans to open 65 hotel rooms and 14 residences in 2019. Bike or snowshoe to an expanded brew pub, a new distillery or, most reflective of its unvarnished charms, the bustling community library.

ELAINE GLUSAC

36. Maldives

Can an island chain be saved?

The Maldives may be sinking because of climate change, but hope springs eternal — the entire archipelago has applied for Unesco biosphere reserve status for 2017, and more than 25 hotels opened in 2016 or will open in 2017. They include the eco-friendly Soneva Jani, whose bedrooms have retractable roofs, and the Four Seasons Voavah Baa Atoll, entirely located within a Unesco biosphere, while the Italian hotel Baglioni opens on the private island of Maagau this summer. Taking an early plunge is Hurawahli, one of the world's largest subsea restaurants, opening in November. Malé International Airport's \$450 million renovation includes a new runway aimed at increasing travelers.

ADAM H. GRAHAM

37. Calabria, Italy

Notable food in a less-traveled region.

Some of the best meals in Italy aren't found in Rome or Tuscany, but from the southern region of Calabria. The toe of Italy's boot is making a name for itself in food and wine circles, led by places like Ristorante Dattilo, Ristorante Ruris in Isola Capo Rizzuto and Antonio Abruzzino in Catanzaro. Known for spicy dishes and much of the world's supply of bergamot, Calabria is pivoting toward lighter fare, organic farming and wine made from local grapes.

DANIELLE PERGAMENT

38. Antequera, Spain

Does Spain have its own Stonehenge?

The region of Andalusia in southern Spain has a new — but very old — archaeological gem to celebrate: A site in the town of Antequera that is home to

ancient dolmens, megalithic tombs built from massive stones believed to be over 5,000 years old. In July, three of these well-preserved monuments, along with two nearby mountains, received Unesco World Heritage status, and the area is now primed for exploration.

INGRID K. WILLIAMS

39. Lofoten Islands, Norway

Art-inspiring landscapes in the Arctic.

This archipelago, a two-and-a-half-hour flight from Oslo and more than 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle, is an idyllic haven for outdoor adventurers and artists. The craggy mountains that drop dramatically into cobalt waters make it a favorite with hikers, cyclists, kayakers and a growing number of surfers. The same striking landscape is popular with artists who turned cod factories into galleries for contemporary art, ceramics and photography. New hotels like Svolvevaer Havn are opening to accommodate the growing number of visitors, while perennial favorites like Thon Hotel Lofoten have undergone renovations. And with more nonstop flights from the low-cost carrier Norwegian Air, it's all that much easier to get to Norway.

KELLY DINARDO

40. Iberá Wetlands, Argentina

Reviving a wild place.

This 3.2-million-acre wetland in northeast Argentina is still off the radar for most visitors, overshadowed by Patagonia. But the government and organizations like the Conservation Land Trust are involved in an extensive "rewilding" project that is repopulating the area with plants and animals, including jaguars. And last year Tompkins Conservation began donating additional land for the creation of Iberá National Park, which, when complete, will be the largest protected natural area in Argentina.

KELLY DINARDO

41. Istria, Croatia

New lodgings in an overlooked region.

Long overshadowed by Dalmatia to the south, Croatia's Istria region is gaining new attention thanks to developments like Family Hotel Amarin, a child-friendly, 280-room beach resort that opened last year, and the Valamar Isabella, which opened on tiny Sveti Nikola island in 2015. Boutique lodgings have popped up in charming fishing towns like Novigrad, home to the 13-room Rivalmare. Thankfully, Istria's other attractions — Roman ruins, fresh truffles, great wines and incredible seafood — are timeless.

EVAN RAIL

42. Placencia, Belize

Ecotourism expands in southern Belize.

A traffic arm still swings down to close the main road into Placencia in southern Belize whenever a small plane lands on its narrow peninsula. More of those planes may be stalling golf carts, a popular form of transportation here, with the recent opening of Naia Resort and Spa, offering 35 beach houses, a yoga studio and a juice bar. The boutique Itz'ana Resort & Residences will follow in March with a locavore restaurant, five-room spa and rum bar. The laid-back beach town offers access to the Belize Barrier Reef, prime waters for seasonally diving with whale sharks, which were recently deemed endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

ELAINE GLUSAC

43. Langtang Region, Nepal

A crumbled town springs back.

Visitors to this hinterland 40 miles north of Kathmandu dwindled following the 2015 avalanche that nearly wiped out Langtang village, the nerve center of the area. In an effort to revive tourism, the travel outfitter Intrepid now offers a spectacular 15-day Tamang Heritage Trail Trek through alpine terrain, verdant midlands, rustic villages and monasteries. The newly opened portion of Langtang National Park called the Tamang Heritage Trail affords an opportunity to meet the Tamang people, originally Tibetan horse traders.

CHARU SURI

44. Bozcaada, Turkey

A slower-paced way to see Turkey.

This wind-hugged sliver of an island in the Dardanelles is delightfully secluded: a 50-minute plane ride from Istanbul to Canakkale followed by a leisurely ferry ride on the Geyikli-Bozcaada feribot (and thus far, untouched by the violence that has shadowed the country). Despite its modest size, Bozcaada is covered in vineyards and home to six vintners, including the widely known Corvus. Beyond the vines are coves, ancient ruins, two beaches and a latte-colored Ottoman castle. Even the cobblestone downtown area has gotten more mellow: It became a traffic-free zone in 2015.

CHARU SURI

45. Birmingham, Ala.

A new brewery was just the start.

Birmingham's nickname, "The Pittsburgh of the South," seems apt anew, thanks to the revitalization of the Avondale neighborhood, where artists, restaurateurs and young entrepreneurs are taking over brick warehouses and Queen Anne cottages. Since the neighborhood's eponymous brewery took up residence inside a 19th-century firehouse, hip hangouts like the wood-fired pizzeria Post Office Pies, the live music venue Saturn and the garage-turned-brunch hot spot Rowe's Service Station have followed suit.

CHANEY KWAK

46. Sacred Valley, Peru

Celebrating food culture in Inca country.

A growing brewery and other food-themed projects are raising the culinary cred in the Inca heartland. Along the Urubamba River, the luxe Chilean hotelier Explora has built a 50-room lodge on an old maize plantation, Hacienda Urubamba is offering lessons in making maize beer, and the Lima restaurant IK opened the gastro inn IFK Lodge. And starting in May, a sleeper train, the Andean Explorer, will explore the altiplano with seasonal highland fare in two dining cars, and a grand piano in the bar.

NICHOLAS GILL

47. Laikipia, Kenya

Elephants, lions and fascinating rituals.

The Borana Conservancy of central Kenya's Laikipia region forms part of a 90,000-acre protected area for elephants, lions and cheetahs, among other charismatic megafauna. Game drives and lodges abound, but a spectacular new property, the 10-suite Arijju, opened in 2016 with guides who take guests on excursions, including fly fishing, trail running, horseback riding and treetop canopy tours. The region is also home to both the Samburu and the Maasai, tribes with different but equally fas-

cinating rituals.

TIM NEVILLE

48. Busan, South Korea

An underrated city is a design hot spot.

Busan is known as a film town, but the city's independent design scene is taking off, too. The Jeonpo Cafe District, a once-gritty industrial area, has recently been transformed into a creative hub packed with boutiques like Object, selling handcrafted items by locals. Nearby, a 1920s former hospital reopened in 2016 as Brown Hands Cafe, an atmospheric art space. There are new ventures to showcase local design, too: the annual Busan Design Festival and Busan Design Spot, a guide to local attractions.

JUSTIN BERGMAN

49. Portland, Ore.

Still cool? Actually, it's gotten cooler.

Is booming Portland, a city that invites visitors to indulge in anything from decadent doughnuts to an early retirement, already played out? Bite your pierced tongue — Portland keeps getting better. The city's already incredible food scene has some notable new players, including a recently opened food hall, the Pine Street Market, and the first U.S. branch of the celebrated Japanese ramen chain Afuri. New lodgings like the Hi-Lo and Society Hotel will transform historic structures into stylish places to stay. The city also recently launched a high-tech bike-share program and opened a light-rail, which whisks visitors across the eye-catching bridge Tilikum Crossing and into destination neighborhoods like Sellwood-Moreland.

DAVE SEMINARA

50. Budapest

A majestic capital revels in modernity.

Post-Iron Curtain Budapest has emerged as an animated metropolis. An appealing, youthful energy increasingly arises in the city, at new restaurants like Szimpla and Margá Bisztró. Visitors can peruse Hungarian-made jewelry and quirky housewares at Velvet Chemistry and Szimpla Design Shop. A slate of new accommodations, including the locally designed Hotel Rum, further signals the city's stylish ascent.

ALIA AKKAM

51. South Bronx, N.Y.

An industrial neighborhood's revival.

Since the 1970s, the South Bronx has suffered in reality and reputation. But things are turning around. Openings in 2016 included artisanal coffee shops, galleries and boutiques like To_Bridges_ and 9J. La Grata Neapolitan pizzoteca, and Milk Burger. This year's arrivals will include the Bruckner Market food hall; the Bronx Post Place retail and dining complex; Latin-inspired restaurants from the chef Douglas Rodriguez; and a riverfront hotel by Somerset Partners.

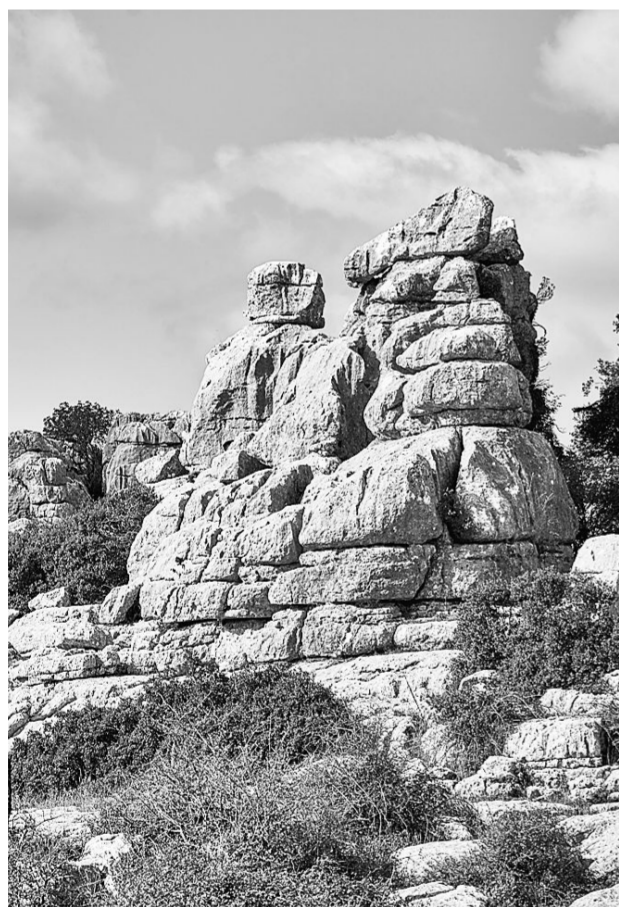
ERIN LEVI

52. Ryukyu Islands, Japan

The Japan you've never heard of.

This rarely visited archipelago of 160 islands, with multiple endangered dialects and cultures, stretches from the southern tip of Japan's mainland to 70 miles off the east coast of Taiwan. Expect Unesco heritage sites, 1,000-year-old cedars, ancient temples and castles, white sand beaches and crystal-clear diving spots. There's a new way to see them: on an Abercrombie and Kent cruise, with rates starting at \$15,495.

DANIEL SCHEFFLER



ANDY HASLAM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Antequera, Spain, and Langtang Region, Nepal Antequera is home to ancient dolmens, megalithic tombs built from stones believed to be over 5,000 years old; below, a yak in the Langtang Region of Nepal, which is seeking to draw visitors back.



DANIEL PRUDEK/SHUTTERSTOCK