

101 Reasons to Travel Now

From a secret beach to an iconic work of art, the reasons that inspire us to travel are as myriad as stars. Here are the best tastes, places, experiences, and ideas we're currently crazy about.

By AMY ALIPIO and JENNIFER BARGER



EXPERIENCING THE JOYS OF
CAMPING (REASON NO. 25)
IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK, CALIFORNIA

1

MAGICAL MOROCCAN CAMEL RIDE

From the back of a camel, Morocco's Erg Chebbi ("sand sea") glows rose gold and orange at sunset. Overnighting in a Berber camp caps off a spiritual, meditative journey.



2

SCOTLAND'S OWN ROUTE 66

The new North Coast route is 500 rugged miles of photo-worthy hillsides, castles, and seaside villages.

3

ALPACA APPAREL

Cloud-soft sweaters go for cheap at San Telmo market in Buenos Aires, where Argentine dealers in knitwear set up every Sunday.

4

ZIP-LINING OVER JODHPUR

Combine a thrill ride with Indian history via Flying Fox's zip-line course above sites such as the 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort.

5

FLOWER POWER

The night-blooming cereus opens up for just one evening a year, usually between late

May and late July. Arizona's Tohono Chul Park, in Tucson, holds the country's largest collection of the cacti.

6

PUCKER UP IN ZANZIBAR

Tangy fresh tamarind juice makes for a restorative breakfast on a rooftop terrace overlooking the streets of Stone Town.

7

STRONGER DOLLAR

With the euro, the Japanese yen, and other currencies at a historic low against the dollar, travel for Americans is cheaper than usual.

8

WILL WORK FOR WINE

We can't think of a better locale to try our hand at WWOOFing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) than on a vineyard in Australia's Barossa Valley.

9

KOH BULON

That idyllic untrampled Thai beach you've been dreaming of? This is it.

10

WALK THIS WAY

Big Apple views loom and cars zoom below as you stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge walkway, still the most scenic approach into Manhattan.

11

DUBLIN'S NEW FOOD SCENE

The Fumbally café features communal tables and no head chef—just wonderful Irish home cooks making great sandwiches and soups.

12

CAR-FREE SIENA

Less flashy than Rome or Florence, always innovative Siena was first among Italian cities to ban cars from most of its old-town center.

13

Beyond the Blue Lagoon

Hot springs and a cold river converge at Hveragerði, in southern Iceland, the perfect spot for a soak after a hike through ancient lava fields and around bubbling mud pots.



FANTASTIC AND FREE



14
SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS
This synchronized sound-and-light show illuminates buildings on both sides of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour each night at 8 p.m.

15
MEXICO CITY SUBWAY TICKET
At many subway stations in Mexico's capital, do ten squats at a special machine and you'll get a free ticket to ride.

16
KENNEDY CENTER'S MILLENNIUM STAGE
Nightly at 6 p.m., this Washington, D.C., temple of culture hosts performers such as steel-pan drummers and dance groups.

17
"WEEKDAY WANDERLUST"
San Francisco's monthly travel-writer speaker series packs the Library Bar of the Hotel Rex with a collegial mix of trip tales and cocktails.

18
SLOW BOAT TO NANTUCKET
The best way to reach the all-American beach mecca in Massachusetts isn't the speedy hydrofoil from Hyannis but the slower ferry, which takes two-and-a-half stress-shedding hours.

19
COOLEST PASSPORT
Hikers on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, in France and Spain, fill a paper Pilgrim's Record with inked stamps collected along the way at inns, churches, and tourist offices.

20
GET-UPS AND GO
Sustainable-minded Nau clothing is outdoor wear you can take from Brooklyn bar to base camp.

21
SPIFFIER ROME
The Pyramid, Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, and Domus Aurea (Emperor Nero's villa) all show off much needed—and tasteful—touch-ups. Next: the Spanish Steps.

22
KING OF WINES
In Tokaj, Hungary, the sweet golden Tokaji aszú wine is once again top-notch and sought-after (Louis XIV dubbed it the "wine of kings").

23
THIS AMERICAN LIFE
Addictive podcasts of the weekly National Public Radio show will make any long-haul drive a delight.



24

GERMANY'S ASPARAGUS SEASON

Germans mark the April-June crops of *spargel* (white asparagus) with festivals and menus that serve the tasty stalks traditionally (with hollandaise sauce, new potatoes, and ham) or with a twist (in ice cream).

25
THE JOYS OF CAMPING
No need to go anywhere exotic. The simple freedom of being in a tent makes for a multisensory journey of its own: rain pattering on the roof, the view out the flap, the woody smoke of a campfire.

26
STINKY TOFU
Get your fix at the night markets in Richmond, British Columbia, where delectable Chinese specialties fill four blocks of neon-lit food stalls.

27
WAKE UP IN NEW MEXICO
D. H. Lawrence, writing in 1928, pretty much summed it up: "The moment I saw the brilliant, proud morning shine high up over the deserts of Santa Fe, something stood still in my soul."

28
CLIMBING HUAYNA PICCHU
That green Peruvian peak backdropping all those Machu Picchu photos allows only 400 hikers a day. Book early. The views are worth it.

29
A PROPER BRITISH FRY-UP
St. Werburghs City Farm, in Bristol, serves the classic breakfast of eggs, toast, beans, bangers, and grilled tomatoes in a Hobbiton-like cottage.

30
ICE BIKING BUFFALO
Pedal the Canalside ice rink on an ice bike with one wheel and one blade. It's all part of a waterfront revitalization in this upstate New York city.

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ART TREASURES

31
THE MILKMAID
Vermeer's serene masterpiece at the recently renovated Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

32
UNTITLED FILM STILLS
Cindy Sherman's black-and-white series, displayed not far from Hollywood at the Broad Museum's new L.A. home

33
MOUNTAIN MAN
Frederic Remington's bronze statue at Arizona's new Museum of the West, Scottsdale

34
LADY AGNEW OF LOCHNAW
John Singer Sargent's sumptuous, career-making painting at Edinburgh's Scottish National Gallery



Brands like Delsey, Trunkster, and ChicBuds are introducing suitcases and bags that can charge your phone, weigh and locate themselves, unlock with fingerprint ID, and even give weather forecasts.

36

EPIC SKI PASS

For about the price of seven daily lift tickets you get unlimited, all-season access to 11 ski resorts in California, Colorado, and Utah. Only hook? You've got to buy it before the season starts.

37

JOYRIDES WITH "JUCY"

Imported from New Zealand, these retrofitted Dodge Caravans are the more nimble, next-gen RVs, packed with double beds, fridge, and a stove.

38

OMS AND SUDS

During weekly Bend & Brew classes, Asheville's Travelling Yogini leads sun salutation sessions at different breweries around the North Carolina mountain town, followed by beer tastings.

39

ART IN QATAR

Abu Dhabi may have the Louvre, but Doha boasts the I. M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Art, an Ali Baba's cavern of cherished objects.



NO. 36:
CATCHING AIR
IN COLORADO

APPS ON THE GO



40
HOPPER

Airline ticket search taking into account the best times of day to fly. Also alerts you to the right time to book



41
BIRDSEYE

Guide to the likely birds you'll see in any given area, with the ability to record and submit sightings quickly



42
JUST AHEAD

GPS-guided audio tour of national parks, with entertaining stories, geography, history, and driving directions



43
DUOLINGO

Gamelike language learning and an iconic owl mascot. Covers ten languages, including Irish and Turkish

44

REAL MEXICO

The revived colonial mining town Real de Catorce offers 17th-century churches and buildings (some converted into hotels and restaurants) and horse rides into peyote country.

45

MOTOR CITY MIDTOWN

Detroit's Midtown hood lures "eds and meds" from the nearby college and hospital with made-here watches and high-end bicycles (Shinola), quirky crafts (City Bird), and local beer (Motor City Brewing Works).

46

UNDERWATER GALLERY

Dive or snorkel into one of the world's only underwater sculpture parks in Grenada's Molinière Bay, where more than 60 eerily beautiful figures riff on local culture.

47

POSTCARDS

Whether from the edge or just from New Jersey, these cultural souvenirs have Instagram beat when it comes to tangible travel pleasures.

48

HIKE THE LYCIAN WAY

Passing sleepy villages, beekeepers making honey, and ancient tombs carved in the rocks above, this ancient off-the-radar Turkish trail skirts the Mediterranean.

CHRIS MCLENNAN/ALAMY (SKIER); PAUL S. BARTHOLOMEW (LOBSTER, OPPOSITE PAGE)

AMERICAN FARE

49

MAINE LOBSTER

Family-run Young's Lobster Pound, in the old shipping town of Belfast, will steam your choice of just caught crustacean and serve it up on picnic tables with vistas of Penobscot Bay.

50

BRITT'S DONUTS

These glazed goodies on the 1880s-era boardwalk at Carolina Beach, North Carolina, are served plain—don't bother asking for sprinkles.

51

CHEESE SANDWICH

When in the South, say "cheese"—as in a classic pimento cheese sandwich, served at old-timey (since 1917) Trowbridge Ice Cream Bar in the Muscle Shoals area of northwest Alabama.



DINNER'S READY AT
YOUNG'S LOBSTER
POUND, MAINE.

**BLUE-
RIBBON
FESTIVALS**

52

MUMMERS PARADE

PHILADELPHIA

Greet New Year's Day with brilliantly feathered pageantry, now in its 116th year.

53

SPOT PRAWN FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER

The succulent local seafood is a hot ticket, best served boiled.

54

VEVČANI CARNIVAL

MACEDONIA

Elaborate masks and traditional music played on woodwind *zurilas* mark one of the Balkans' best bashes.

55

**SMITHSONIAN
FOLKLIFE**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Featured places (Basque Spain in 2016) send top artisans, dancers, and cooks to the Mall.





56

Yellow Mountain

Jagged, cloud-kissed peaks helped eastern China's Huangshan range launch a thousand artworks. Either board a cable car or tackle a challenging daylong hike to the top of the western steps.

57

SWEET MEETS SAVORY

Rich caramels at Nashville's Olive and Sinclair combine duck fat, cane sugar, and pepper. Watch them being crafted during the Tennessee company's factory tours.

58

BATHING IN MUD

Just outside Argentina's top wine region, the Termas Cacheuta resort overflows with both mud and mineral baths.

59

CARNIVAL FEVER

Before Ash Wednesday, the tiny island country of Trinidad essentially shuts down for one of the world's largest carnival celebrations. Line up for "fetting" (partying in the streets) and soca-fueled dancing.

60

SLEDDING FOR GROWN-UPS

"Sledging" down Swiss slopes on steerable sleds with runners is the latest Alpine craze. Try it in the cul-de-sac village of Arosa.

61

SOUND ON

Classical Hindustani music resonates throughout Varanasi, one of India's oldest cities.

62

REST LIKE ROYALTY

London's fourth-generation, family-owned Goring Hotel features not only a complete designer revamp but also a royal warrant from Queen Elizabeth II for hospitality services.



63

TRIBAL TEXTILES

In riverside Luang Prabang, Laos, watch skilled women weave, tie-dye, and batik fabric at the Ock Pop Tok workshop, then take a half-day crafting class.

64

BLISS OUT, MOROCCAN STYLE

With its orange-blossom-scented massages, Les Bains de Marrakech provides a luxurious respite from dusty streets and souks.

65

DANCING DERVISHES

Prepare to be moved by the sacred ceremony where Sufi monks whirl to mystical music at Karabas-i Veli, a cultural heritage center in Bursa, Turkey.

66

PORTUGUESE FEAST

Celia Pedrosa's humor-filled Eat Portugal tour leads visitors to Lisbon's greatest tastes, including the new Mercado da Ribeira.

67

OPAL COUNTRY

Visit gem mines, houses, and bars built underground in Coober Pedy, in northern South Australia, a quirky outpost celebrating its centennial this year.

CRUISES WE CRAVE



68

NILE, EGYPT

Pharaohs' tombs, palm-skirted shores, and tales of Queen Hatshepsut, in a complex land



69

IRRAWADDY, MYANMAR

Temples, jungle-clad banks, rice paddies, and Intha fishermen who ply boat oars with one leg



70

RHINE, GERMANY

Quaint castles and half-timbered towns along a hardworking European shipping lane



71

ANTARCTICA

Gentoo penguins and Weddell seals at the stark, unearthly end of the world



72

NORWAY FJORDS

Impossibly blue water, towering cliffs, and glacier and waterfall views in *Frozen* country

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73

WHALES ON MAUI

From January to April, watch whales sans the expensive boat tours by parking yourself on the shores of the Au'au Channel. The humpback hangout makes spotting easy.



74

ROOTSRATED.COM

Type in your outdoor activity of choice, and this nifty website shows where you can do it at your destination. Backpacking near Bozeman, anyone?

75

THE MET, TAMED

Jason Spiehler, co-founder of new guide service Walks of New York, brings the Metropolitan Museum of Art to life, breaking down the massive institution into compelling stories.

76

HOPPING GOOD

Blue Bunny Ice Cream's headquarters in Le Mars, Iowa, features a retro ice cream parlor scooping 70-plus flavors.

77

NATIONAL PARK YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

About 110 miles east of El Paso, the little-visited

Guadalupe Mountains park encompasses a rare alpine habitat with elk and mountain lions, a fossilized reef, and the highest mountain in Texas.

78

RAISE YOUR GLASS

Szimpla Kert started Budapest's "ruin bar" trend in 2002, and it remains cool as ever with its good food and beer in dilapidated open-air courtyards.

79

FUN IN FUNICULARS

Reach the heady heights of Valparaiso, Chile, on one of the port city's click-clacking, hundred-year-old incline cable railways, or *ascensors*.

80

SURF PERU

Catch the longest left-hand waves in the world from Peru's northern coast, with its white-sand beaches and laid-back resorts. Find surf shops in Máncora and sleepy Punta Sal.



81

Verona Voices

Summertime operas—many of them Italian—sound and look extraordinary from a stone seat in Verona's Roman amphitheater, dating to the first century A.D.

Book us a corner table at the growing number of American fine-dining spots, such as New York City's Dirt Candy and Pittsburgh's Bar Marco, where owners have abolished tips in favor of paying staff living wages.

83

SKY BIKE BUILT FOR TWO

At Mashpi Lodge, in Ecuador, ride a tandem "bike" suspended from a 656-foot-long cable above the Andean cloud forest.

84

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA

Tacos get a lot of love in San Antonio, Texas, but there's nothing we'd rather eat than chicken enchiladas verde at El Mirador in Southtown.

85

SUPER SONICS

Snorkelers in the turquoise waters around Salt Cay, in Turks and Caicos, can hear the plaintive songs of thousands of humpback whales from January to April.

86

LET THEM EAT BLACK FOREST CAKE

Lots of places in Germany serve up this decadent dessert, but Hotel Alemannenhof's version comes with a sweet terrace view of the Black Forest's famed Lake Titisee.

87

UNDERGROUND GALLERY

The Swedish capital Stockholm's subway system amounts to the world's longest art exhibit (68 miles), with works installed throughout.

88

RICHARD III'S NEW GRAVE

The mortal remains of the infamous English king were recently reinterred at Leicester Cathedral.

89

OOMPAH LOOMPAH

Hotel Chocolat's Rabot Estate, in St. Lucia, is part lodging,



part tropical Wonka factory, with a chocolate-themed restaurant and tree-to-bar candymaking experiences.

90

CANADA'S ELLIS ISLAND

Genealogy buffs have a field day at the newly expanded Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, in popular port of call Halifax.

91

NORTH AFRICAN HEAT

Harissa, a sinus-clearing paste of red peppers and spices, originated in Tunisia. Add it to bread, soup—or anything, really.

92

PREDAWN TUK TUK

In Cambodia, buzz down

the streets of Siem Reap in complete darkness riding in an auto rickshaw, before landing at Angkor Wat for sunrise over the temples.

93

HOMING IN ON ART

In red-hot Manchester, the new HOME—England's largest contemporary arts center outside of London—hosts experimental theater, films, and edgy exhibits.

94

LITTLE LIBRARIES

A shelf or two of books await readers at take-one, leave-one Little Free Libraries throughout the world. A trail of them between Savannah and Milledgeville, Georgia, honors Flannery O'Connor.

95

OYSTERS IN CANCALE

Europe's highest tides nurture the mollusks in this French port town. Slurp them down along Cancale's crescent-shaped waterfront.

96

HIPSTER JOBURG

Maboneng Precinct, in Johannesburg, South Africa, fills converted warehouses and onetime factories with galleries, cafés, and the best people-watching in town.

97

A BEEF WITH BANGKOK

In Thailand, most restaurants ask if you want food Thai or *farang* (tourist) spicy. Not so Nahm, where its legendary beef salad is served only one way: incendiary.

98

THE CHEESE STANDS ALONE

Throughout Switzerland, and particularly in Alpine areas like Canton Uri, farmers set their cheese out on tables to buy on an honor system.

99

WATER THAT GLOWS

In Mosquito Bay in Vieques, Puerto Rico, nighttime kayak trips glide through glittering water at the world's brightest bioluminescent bay.

100

QUINTESENTIAL JAPANESE TEAHOUSE

Near Kyoto's Kodaiji Temple, sit and sip at ultratraditional Rakusho, with its garden, lanterns, and pond of koi fish.

101

GETTING OFF THE GRID

And being wholly in the now.