TRAVEL+ LEISURE

THE 50 BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL IN 2027

By **Travel + Leisure Editors** | Published on November 17, 2026

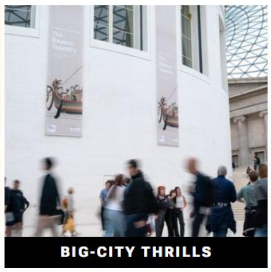
As 2026 comes to a close, we're naturally starting to look ahead. This year, *Travel + Leisure* covered the whole world, with compelling stories from Iceland and Zanzibar, Mexico and Italy.

But a new year calls for new trips—and there's plenty to explore. We've canvassed our staff and tapped outside experts, including T+L's A-List advisors, to compile this list of destinations worthy of your attention in 2027. Some are just coming into their own, places that demand lots of preparation and a healthy sense of adventure. Others are classic favorites with new hotels and infrastructure that are calling us back. And a few are newsworthy in their own right—the stuff of cocktail conversation and global headlines, the sort of place you have to see before the moment passes. (That's certainly true of one spot that's sure to be the epicenter of astro-tourism this summer.)

Whatever the new year holds for you, your family, and your friends, we hope our expert-vetted list, compiled by the editors of T+L, will inspire your vacations and help you come home with some incredible memories. After all, the most precious resource we have is time, and there's no better way to spend it than by visiting some of these 50 amazing places right now. *—Edited by Paul Brady and Alisha Prakash*

DESTINATIONS FOR

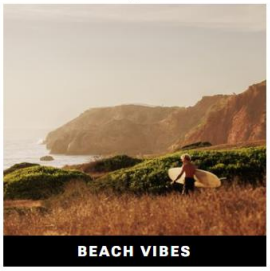














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DESTINATIONS FOR

FOOD AND DRINKS



Guests attend a cooking masterclass during the International Alba White Truffle Fair. Photo: Giorgio Perottino/Getty Images for Ente Fiera Nazionale del Tartufo Bianco D'Alba

ALBA, ITALY

Long Piedmont's truffle capital and a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, this wine-country town will add another distinction for 2027: Italy's Capital of Contemporary Art, bringing exhibitions and cultural programming to the heart of the Langhe throughout the year. A new place to stay is also coming, with Borgo Castellengo set to open nearby in the spring. "Alba is a great example of an Italian town that has maintained its identity and traditions despite becoming increasingly popular with international travelers," says Simone Amorico, co-owner of Access Italy and a T+L A-List advisor. "You still feel a very strong connection to the local people, the countryside, and the traditions of the region." The neighboring town of Bra is worth a visit, too, with Cheese, its biennial festival dedicated to artisan raw-milk cheeses, returning in 2027. Amorico's advice? "Visit Alba sooner rather than later, while it still has that wonderful sense of authenticity and intimacy." —*Susmita Baral*



Interior of the Neigbor's Cafe at the 1 Hotel Austin. Photo: Taylor McIntyre/Travel + Leisure

AUSTIN & THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Everyone knows about the breakfast tacos, brisket, and craft beers by now. The real heat these days is on the next frontier of culinary innovation. Our colleagues at *Food & Wine* recently named Austin the best city in the U.S. for coffee, with spots like Desnudo, Flat Track, Fleet Coffee, and Klerje helping to pace the scene. Hotels are also part of the allure, says Keith Waldon, a member of the T+L Travel Advisory Board who lives in the city. "The new 1 Hotel is the current buzz," he says, "with a dedicated Bamford Wellness Spa floor, a 16th-floor rooftop lounge called Watr, and the Alteño restaurant by chef Johnny Curiel." The Rainey Street District around the hotel is on the rise as well, with newcomers like Bar Hacienda and the Modern Bar doing craft cocktails, and a new outpost for La Santa Barbacha, which makes some of the best tacos in Texas. Austin is also welcoming new hotels, including Bohème and Hotel Trinity, Autograph Collection, both of which are slated to open by the end of 2026. Outside the city limits, more hotel development is putting a fresh spotlight on the Hill Country. The newest Canyon Ranch opened in October, and both the Kimpton Fredericksburg and the hotly anticipated Waldorf Astoria Texas Hill Country are scheduled to open in 2027. The latter will have a new restaurant from Dominique Crenn, whose namesake San Francisco restaurant has three Michelin stars. — *Taylor McIntyre*









BARBADOS

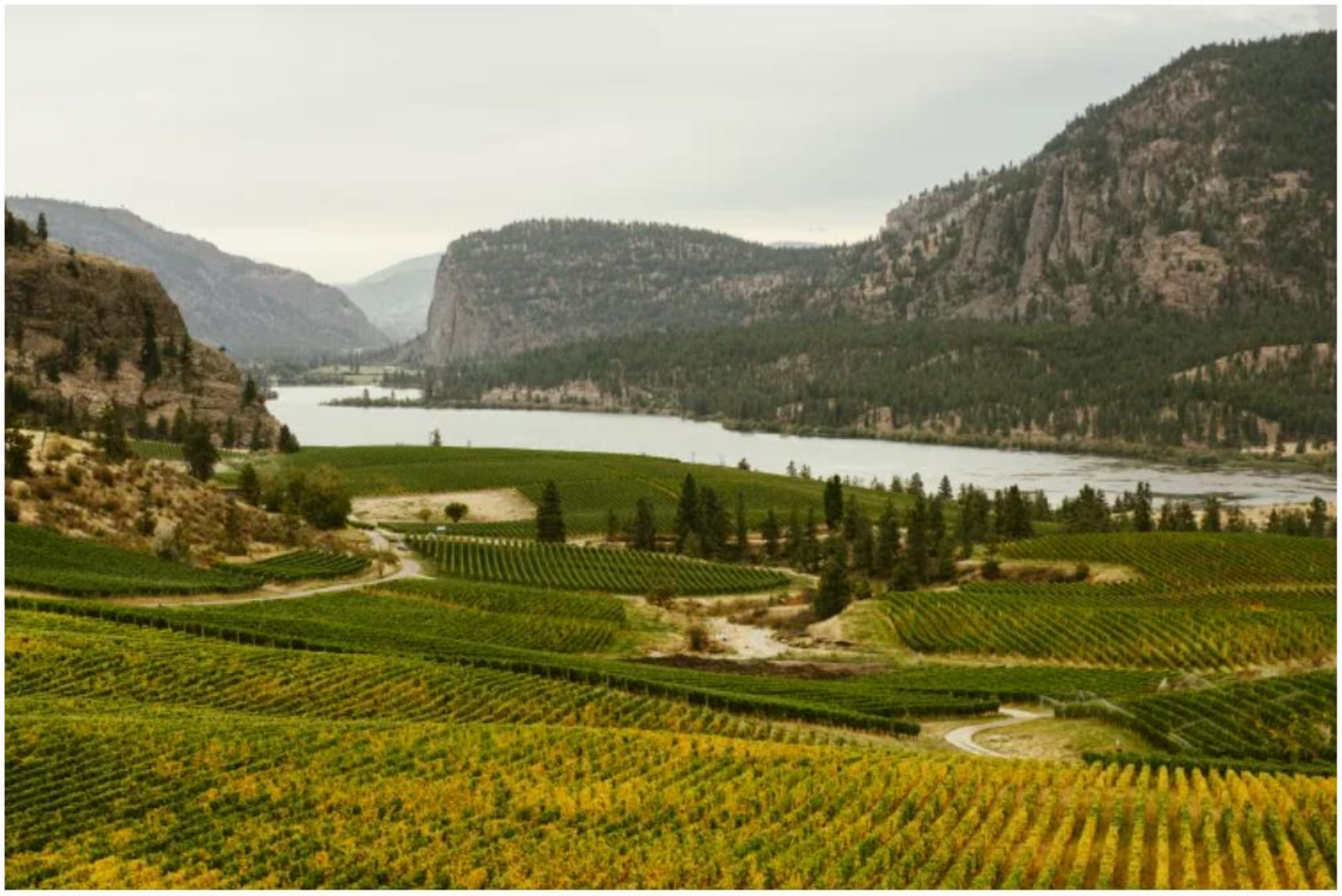
The Cayman Islands make headlines for high-end dining, and Jamaican cuisine has been exported across the world, but the small island of Barbados is also making its case in the never-ending, completely subjective contest to be the culinary capital of the Caribbean. The year ahead promises to be particularly significant, in part because of some noteworthy new places to stay. "Royalton Vessence, part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, is an adults-only all-inclusive that opened in 2026 with artistic design, wellness programs, and even a 'digital detox' area to break away from the connected lifestyle," says Margie Hand, a T+L A-List advisor and Caribbean travel expert. Then there's the Pendry Barbados, which is slated to open in 2027. "Its 80 beachfront rooms will be great for families," says Brittney Magner, another A-List advisor who specializes in the region. Helping connect guests with the island's foodways is the distinctive Dine With a Bajan program, which allows visitors to book meals with local Barbadian hosts. First launched in 2025, it's continuing to gain momentum—as is the restaurant scene on the island, Magner says. "Baia Barbados, in Speightstown, has a stylish beachfront setting and Peruvian and Latin influences, while Uva Barbados is a newer-feeling, design-forward option with small plates and cocktails." —*Asa Canty*



Folia Bar & Kitchen at Appellation Healdsburg. Photo: Dylan Patrick/Appellation Healdsburg

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

"We keep getting more flights and we've got a bunch of new restaurants, but what makes Healdsburg special is just the human quality," says Joe Bartolomei. "This is a small town loaded with people who really care." Bartolomei is certainly one of them, as a longtime resident and unofficial Sonoma County tourism ambassador who just launched his own travel company, curating monthlong stays and enviable experiences in the area. Among the top-line draws for the food-obsessed is Folia Bar & Kitchen, which was just named by T+L as one of the world's best new hotel restaurants. (It's located at Appellation Healdsburg, which was ranked by T+L readers as the best hotel in California in 2026.) Then there's Liora Estate, which opened in 2026, with its own compelling restaurant, Maréla. And SingleThread, a legendary restaurant with three Michelin stars, is expanding its hospitality footprint with the Selvedge, a new hotel that's slated to open by the end of 2026. At the same time, new flights are making it simpler to reach this NorCal enclave: Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport, in Santa Rosa, has seen a serious uptick in new service from Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and Southwest Airlines. —*Maya Kachroo-Levine*



Vineyard views in Canada's Okanagan Valley. Photo: Kamil Bialous/Travel + Leisure

OKANAGAN VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

"You really haven't lived until you've eaten a fresh Okanagan peach," says Vancouver-based journalist Sara Harowitz. These vibrant stone fruits are just one of a seemingly endless array of things to eat and drink in this region, which sits roughly midway between Vancouver and Banff. Home to hundreds of vineyards and farms, it's increasingly on the radar of both Canadians and international visitors obsessed with straight-from-the-earth ingredients. "The unique terroir—which includes Canada's only desert—is an inspiration to some of the country's most talented chefs and winemakers," says Vancouver-based T+L contributor Chloe Bergé. A good home base for exploring is Kelowna, which was designated Canada's first UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in 2025. The forthcoming Okanagan Gondola promises to offer travelers an experience combining the best of the region: scenery, nature, and cuisine, with cable-car rides near Kalamalka Lake and mountaintop dining with sweeping views, when it opens in 2027. —*Nikki Vargas*



Macuitl Molino, the Puebla restaurant. Photo: Ely Valencia/Macuitl Molino

PUEBLA, MEXICO

This central Mexican state, just southeast of Mexico City, has long shaped the country's cuisine with signature dishes like *chiles en nogada* and mole. The arrival of the Michelin Guide in 2026 gave the food scene a fresh boost, with 14 restaurants earning recognition. "From acclaimed fine-dining establishments to family-run *fondas*, traditional markets, and generations-old kitchens, Puebla offers culinary excellence at every level," says Carla López-Malo, the state's secretary of tourism. The heightened attention has also helped shine a light on restaurants and kitchens across the state, not just those recognized by Michelin. At Macuitl Molino, for example, chef and co-owner Gustavo Macuitl says his dining room is fuller, with lines that were once uncommon outside high season. "It's hard and heavy work, but to be valued is really beautiful," he shares with T+L. Easier access should keep travelers coming: Volaris now flies nonstop to Puebla from Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and Newark. —*Veronica Lopez*

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Emirates Wolgan Valley, a Ritz-Carlton Lodge, in Australia. Photo: Emirates Wolgan Valley, a Ritz-Carlton Lodge

SYDNEY & NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

"Sydney is an exciting city that's constantly on the move," says Australian-born restaurateur Curtis Stone. And that energy is set to continue in 2027. With the recent opening of Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport making the destination more accessible, there's never been a better time to discover what New South Wales is serving up. Opening in 2027, Waldorf Astoria Sydney will have two original dining concepts from Stone. This will be a significant addition to Sydney's already dynamic food scene, which is deeply rooted in the surrounding land and sea. "The produce of New South Wales and beyond is world-class, including unique Indigenous ingredients that are only available in Australia," Stone says. "We have some of the most amazing seafood anywhere in the world." This culinary momentum is complemented by major luxury-hotel openings in 2027, including Emirates Wolgan Valley, the world's first Ritz-Carlton Lodge, and the relaunched Avani Cypress Lakes Resort, a 340-acre integrated wellness property in the Hunter Valley. —*Kate Van Dyke*

DESTINATIONS FOR

BIG-CITY THRILLS



Tichuca Rooftop Bar in Bangkok. Photo: Andre Malerba/Travel + Leisure

BANGKOK

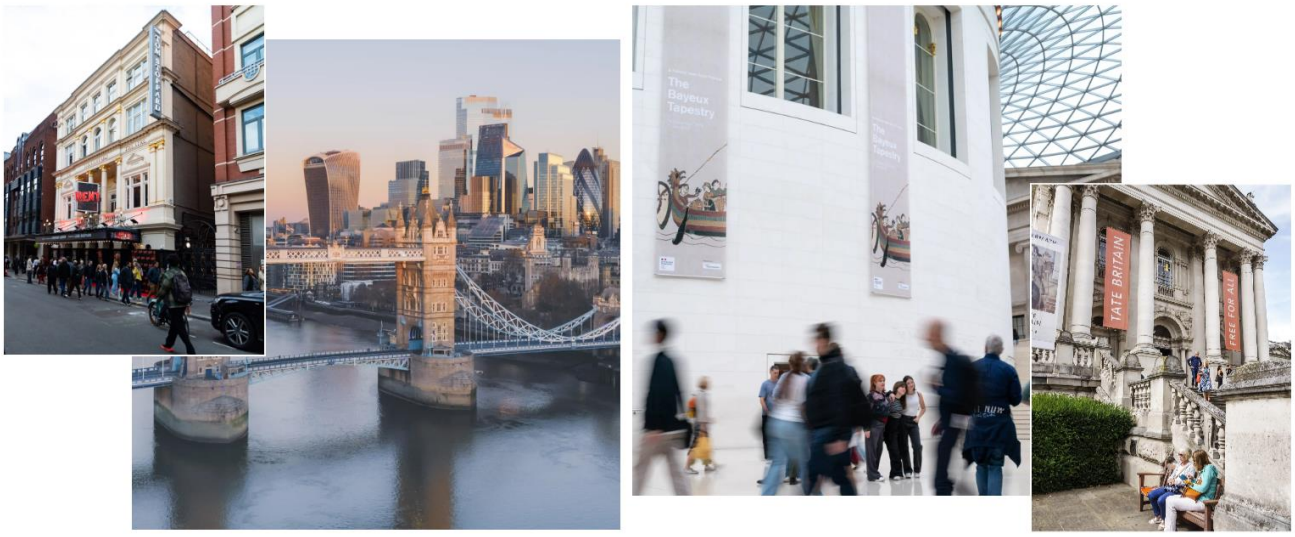
"The city is in a genuine golden age, and most travelers have not caught up yet," says Duncan Greenfield-Turk, a T+L A-List advisor who specializes in travel to Southeast Asia. Some of the most noteworthy recent developments are on the Chao Phraya riverfront, where the Langham, Custom House is one of Asia's most hotly anticipated luxury openings, slated for December 2026. The hotel will occupy a series of historic buildings, including one from 1888, as well as a new-build addition with 60 rooms and 15 suites. Elsewhere, the futuristic One Bangkok super-complex has been called "one of the most ambitious projects in Southeast Asia" by T+L, which earlier in 2026 reported on the 42-acre mixed-use district that will have Andaz and Ritz-Carlton hotels plus residences, offices, shops, and art venues, in between two of the city's best-known parks, Benjakitti and Lumphini. Meanwhile, planned upgrades to public transit, parks, and pedestrian spaces should make it easier to explore neighborhoods beyond the usual tourist circuit, no taxi required. All of this just adds to the enduring appeal of what Greenfield-Turk calls "one of the most exciting cities on earth." —*Alisha Prakash*



The Jacksonville, Florida skyline. Photo: Visit Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

This northern Florida city has been on the cusp of cool for decades, but 2027 may be the moment Jacksonville finally arrives. The ongoing redevelopment along the St. Johns River is reaching a tipping point, with the Riverfront Jacksonville project advancing alongside a growing number of existing waterfront amenities. Helping cement the waterfront as a major draw for travelers will be the 2027 opening of the Four Seasons Hotel & Private Residences Jacksonville with 170 rooms, a huge wellness complex, and a luxury marina—all situated next to the city's EverBank Stadium, home of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars. That venue is itself in the midst of a major overhaul to become what the team dubs the "Stadium of the Future" (meaning the Jaguars will spend 2027 playing their "home" games in Orlando). Meanwhile, a $440-million development at Jacksonville International Airport is adding six gates, making it easier to get to and from this corner of Florida. Up next for the city is an expansion of the so-called Emerald Trail, which will link around 30 miles of trails, parks, and other green spaces to the riverfront by 2029. —*Paul Brady*



LONDON

One of the city's hottest "new" attractions is, in fact, nearly a thousand years old. The Bayeux Tapestry, a roughly 230-foot-long linen marvel with embroidered scenes chronicling the events surrounding the Norman invasion, has made its way to the British Museum for the first time in history. Everyone is clamoring to see the masterpiece, on loan from France through July 2027. (A T+L A-List advisor like Nicola Butler, who runs NoteWorthy, a luxury operator, may be able to help with tickets.) And there's more to come in 2027: Tate Britain will mark seven decades of artist David Hockney's work with a major exhibition.

You could also come to the Big Smoke for the new hotels alone. Opening over the next year are a 193-room St. Regis, complete with a jazz bar, in the heart of Mayfair; nearby Cambridge House, Auberge Collection, set in a storied Georgian mansion with a three-level spa; and the long-awaited Waldorf Astoria London, Admiralty Arch, a gem tucked in a former government landmark, with sight lines toward Buckingham Palace and destination restaurants from Clare Smyth and Daniel Boulud. Then there's the renovated, hopefully buzzy-once-more Chiltern Firehouse, nearly two years after a fire damaged the hotel.

Theater is having a starry moment, too, with shows including *The Lives of Others*, starring Keira Knightley, and a fresh staging of *Rent,* timed for the musical's 30th anniversary. And getting there will be even easier in 2027: to keep up with demand, American Airlines is adding a fourth daily flight from New York to London, aboard a Boeing 787-9 with premium Flagship Suites. —*Jacqui Gifford*



New York's Rockefeller Center. Photo: iStockphoto/Getty Images

NEW YORK CITY

Even in a city that's seen just about everything, 2027 promises a few firsts. The Nell New York will make history as the first-ever hotel in Rockefeller Center, featuring interiors inspired by the landmark's art-deco architecture and renowned public art collection. Meanwhile, London dining favorite The Wolseley is branching into hospitality, with its inaugural hotel set to open just steps from Bryant Park. Beyond hotels, the Big Apple is giving soccer fans another reason to visit. Fresh off the FIFA World Cup buzz, the city is gearing up for the summer 2027 opening of Etihad Park, its first soccer-specific stadium and the new home of New York City Football Club. Several beloved landmarks are also getting a facelift. Ellis Island's National Museum of Immigration is undergoing a $100 million revitalization that will more than double its searchable immigration records. And Arthur Ashe Stadium is in the midst of an $800 million renovation—the largest capital investment in U.S. Open history. The overhaul will introduce an upgraded grand entrance, new dining and hospitality offerings, larger concourses, enhanced courtside seating, and a cutting-edge $250 million Player Performance Center—all set to be completed by the 2027 tournament. Even better, getting in on the action will soon be easier, with Delta launching twice-daily service between Newark Liberty International Airport and Los Angeles International in April 2027.

—*Annie Archer*



Robert Delaunay's "The City of Paris" on view at the Centre Pompidou Hanwha in Seoul. Photo: Pedro Pardo/AFP via Getty Images

SEOUL

South Korea is having a moment. International arrivals grew nearly 16 percent in 2025, and United Airlines' new nonstop route from Newark to Seoul has made getting to the capital easier than ever. And improved access is just the tip of the iceberg. The city has become a hot spot for "cosmetic-cations," thanks to its affordable, high-quality skin care and cosmetic treatments. "In 2026, we had double the enquiries for Korea compared to 2025, and K-beauty is a big part of that," says Catherine Heald, founder and CEO of Remote Lands, an Asia-focused agency. New cultural attractions and hotels are also sweetening the appeal. The Centre Pompidou Hanwha opened in June, with Rosewood Seoul expected in 2027. Seoul is turning up its after-dark scene, too, with an ambitious plan to become a 24-hour destination, introducing extended museum hours, moonlit hikes, and night markets. Meanwhile, the 28,000-seat Seoul Arena, designed with a focus on K-pop, is slated to open in 2027 ahead of the inaugural Fanomenon festival in December. But as Amy Tadehara, a T+L A-List advisor who plans trips to the country, puts it, "The bigger story is that Seoul's growth isn't tied to any single event. Korean culture continues to have enormous global influence through K-pop, film, television, food, and beauty —and Seoul is where travelers can experience all of those influences firsthand." —*Susmita Baral*



The Gathering Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Photo: Patrick Quiring/Getty Images for Experience Tulsa

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Much more than a pit stop on Route 66, Tulsa recalls Austin before the tech scene—or maybe Nashville before the bachelorette parties. Historic live-music venues like Cain's Ballroom, a honky-tonk dating back more than a century, and famed dive Mercury Lounge thrive unchanged, while the Bob Dylan Center and Woody Guthrie Center sit poetically next to each other. The city's early-20th-century reign as the "oil capital of the world" remains visible today in the form of a rich collection of art-deco buildings, says Malinda Blank, executive director of the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture. "They tell a much bigger story about how the city evolved, and the people who shaped it." And the Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center, which opened in 2021, tells the unvarnished story of the historically Black Greenwood District and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. For all its layers of history, Tulsa is also on the cutting edge, with the early 2027 return of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art and its 460-acre campus, which is coming off a multiyear renovation. It will join the existing Gathering Place, a $465-million public-private park that makes a mammoth statement about Tulsa's history, yes, and its future. —*Asa Canty*

DESTINATIONS FOR

MOMENTS ON THE WATER



A rendering of the Amangati marina. Photo: SINOT

AMANGATI

Few hotel brands generate as much buzz—and online chatter—as Aman, so the 2027 debut of its first luxury yacht is sure to make waves. *Amangati* will have just 47 suites, each with Japanese *ryokan*-inspired decor and a private terrace, plus the kinds of amenities one expects from a hospitality brand that recently unveiled one of Mexico's most incredible resorts: a jaw-dropping spa, phenomenal dining, and a vibey jazz club where, one hopes, cell phones will be outright banned. "Our loyal guests follow the brand wherever it goes, and *Amangati* is the next chapter," says Vlad Doronin, owner and CEO of Aman Group. The ship will launch in the Mediterranean, with itineraries up and down the Dalmatian Coast, as well as to the south of France and Sicily. Later in 2027, it will cross the Atlantic to the Caribbean for a winter season visiting smaller islands such as Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Canouan, and St. Barts. Unlike some intimate-ship cruise lines—which don't allow guests on ocean crossings—Aman will also offer a two-week voyage from Málaga, Spain, to St. John's, Antigua, in mid-November 2027. For anyone seeking a pre-holiday reset, the itinerary sounds positively delightful: a port call in the Azores, followed by plenty of time to practice yoga on the open-air meditation deck and relax in the spa's hammam and *banya* treatment areas. —*Paul Brady*



A rendering of the Oceania Sonata. Photo: Oceania Cruises

OCEANIA SONATA

T+L reader favorite Oceania Cruises is charting a new course with its forthcoming vessel, which will have more space, suites, and amenities than any previous ship from the company. Slated to launch in August, *Oceania Sonata* will be the first of a new series of "Sonata Class" ships, each built for 1,390 guests with 13 restaurants and bars, plus a number of amenities yet to be announced. (One thing is certain: the vessel will be adults-only, following Oceania's decision to implement an 18-and-up policy.) As befits a company known for high-end dining—Oceania named several *Food & Wine* Best New Chefs as godparents of *Oceania Allura*—the brand is adding some new culinary concepts to *Sonata.* One is Nikkei Kitchen, which will channel the flavors of Peru and Japan. Another is La Table par Maîtres Cuisiniers de France, an intimate spot that seats just 18 guests and could prove to be one of the finest restaurants at sea. "Our culinary team can create an incredibly personal and refined experience, with a level of detail that is truly exceptional," says Jason Montague, the chief luxury officer for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, which owns Oceania. "It has been a real passion project for our chefs." —*Paul Brady*

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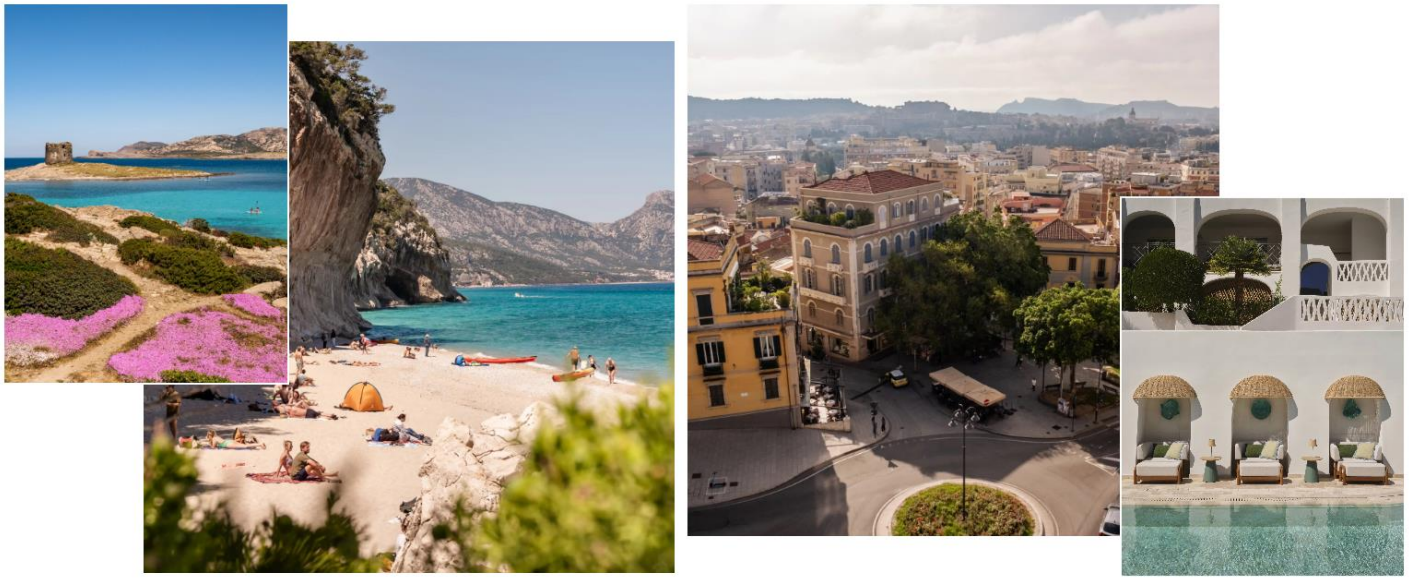


SARDINIA, ITALY

White-sand beaches, vibrant harbor towns, water in unreal shades of turquoise: Sardinia has long been one of Italy's great escapes. And lately, the island has added even more reasons to book. W Sardinia - Poltu Quatu debuted in May 2026, and in 2027, the storied Hotel Pitrizza will join the Cheval Blanc collection as Cheval Blanc Pitrizza; Aleni, a Rocco Forte Hotel, is also set to arrive. Beyond its stunning stays, Italy's second-largest island is home to one of the world's five Blue Zones and offers plenty of outdoor rewards, from hikes through La Maddalena Archipelago National Park to walks along the Pevero Health Trail. Even better? No more connections. In 2026, Delta launched a nonstop route from New York's John F. Kennedy International to Olbia, marking the first-ever direct flight from the U.S. to the island; United will follow with a direct flight from Newark to Olbia in spring 2027. "Sardinia has a lot of what travelers are looking for in a European destination, from beaches and natural beauty to culture and cuisine," says Andrew Bouwman, Delta's managing director of international network planning. "We're giving customers direct access to a part of Italy that has traditionally been more difficult to reach." —*Alessandra Amodio*



A surfing competition off the coast of Teahupoo, Tahiti. Photo: Hannah Anderson/World Surf League/Getty Images

TAHITI

Long known as the gateway to French Polynesia, Tahiti is more connected than ever. United increased flights between San Francisco and Papeete in summer 2026, and Air Tahiti Nui is launching nonstop service between Sydney and Papeete this December. But getting there is, of course, just the start. Beyond its world-famous beaches, the island offers a mix of adventure, natural beauty, and lesser-known experiences that might be easily overlooked by travelers heading onward to Moorea, Bora Bora, and other islands, according to Christina Turrini, a T+L A-List advisor who specializes in French Polynesia. For those looking to explore even further, the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection debuted its first French Polynesian cruises in 2026, offering a new way to experience Tahiti and its nearby islands. Sports fans have yet another reason to plan a visit: from July 24 to August 7, Tahiti will host the 2027 Pacific Games, Oceania's largest multisport event, for the first time since 1995. —*Elizabeth Rhodes*



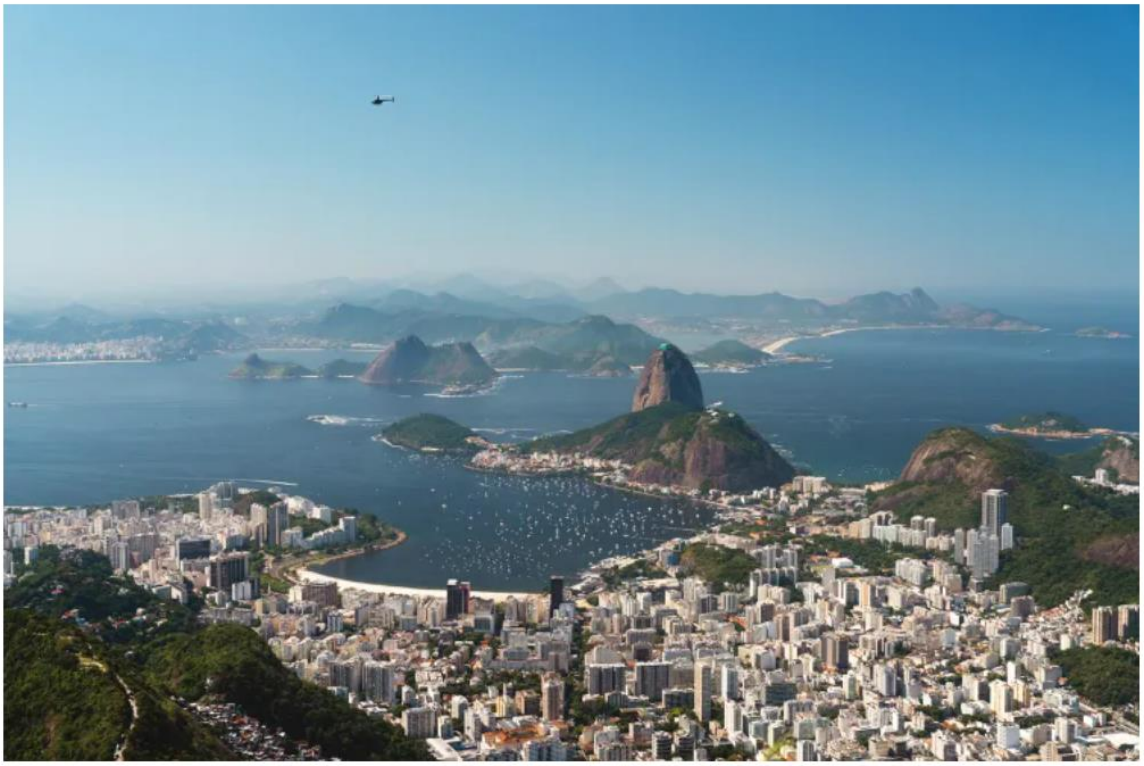
The Iron Gates gorge of the Danube River. Photo: mitarart/Adobe Stock

THE RIVERS OF EUROPE

If it feels like all your friends and neighbors are taking European river cruises these days, it's not your imagination. River cruising is one of the fastest-growing segments of the travel industry, with more Americans than ever sailing the Danube, Douro, Rhine, and Rhone on an ever-growing fleet of luxurious ships that rival many four- and five-star hotels on land. According to Signature Travel Network, a consortium of advisors, international river-cruise bookings for 2027 are already pacing 17 percent ahead of 2026. Some of that demand is coming from the scheduled debut of the *Celebrity Compass* and *Celebrity Seeker*, the first river ships from Celebrity Cruises, which is better known for its ocean-going mega-ships. These new vessels, which will compete with high-end offerings from lines such as AmaWaterways and Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, will each have 86 staterooms, ample open-air space, and an impressive number of dining options given their relatively small size, including bars, sit-down restaurants, cafes, and a chef's table serving dishes inspired by the countries where they sail. Occasionally low water levels on rivers like the Rhine remain a challenge for the industry, which has to transport guests by land when conditions become unsafe for navigation. Established operators like Viking have extensive experience managing these disruptions, though they can still be frustrating for travelers. Even so, Americans can't seem to get enough of these trips—so much so that operators like Backroads, DuVine, and VBT have teamed up with river-cruise lines to create more adventurous and active itineraries, as T+L recently reported. Adding to the momentum, luxury ocean-cruise brand Explora Journeys announced in September that it plans to enter European river cruising. —*Paul Brady*

DESTINATIONS FOR

CULTURAL IMMERSION



View of Rio de Janeiro from the Christ the Redeemer viewpoint. Photo: Jack Anstey/Travel + Leisure

BRAZIL

Brazil's travel moment isn't over—in fact, it's just getting started. T+L's 2026 destination of the year has long been known for its buzzy cities, diverse natural beauty, and one-of-a-kind cultural experiences, like its world-famous Carnival. And the world's fifth-largest country continues to evolve, with new attractions and refreshed icons. According to Mikael Castro, a T+L A-List advisor specializing in Brazil, the Sofitel Rio de Janeiro Ipanema will usher in a new era of hospitality and cuisine on the legendary waterfront when it reopens in late 2026. In 2027, the first pavilions of the new Museu Bernardo Paz will welcome art lovers. And if you didn't get your fill of the FIFA World Cup in 2026, great news: Brazil will be hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup from June 24 to July 25, 2027, across eight cities, bringing the tournament to South America for the first time. "Beyond football, it's a chance to experience how Brazil celebrates together, then build a journey around the distinctive food, music, and landscapes of the host regions," Castro says. Reaching Brazil is also easier than ever for Americans, thanks to a new Gol Airlines route between New York and Rio de Janeiro that launched in 2026. —*Elizabeth Rhodes*



The rooftops of Dubrovnik, Croatia. Photo: Ambika Verma/Travel + Leisure

CROATIA

This country has undoubtedly been having a moment: luxury travel company Kensington says bookings to Croatia jumped 61 percent between March and June 2026, compared to 2025, as travelers increasingly look beyond the usual Mediterranean heavyweights in search of shoulder-season escapes. "Travelers will be surprised by how easy it is to find a quieter, more traditional side of the Mediterranean," says Graham Carter, a T+L A-List advisor and co-founder of Unforgettable Travel, who calls out the country's coastal islands as particularly alluring. "Places such as Jelsa on Hvar, Komiža on Vis, and Milna on Brač offer a different experience. These are living communities where fishermen bring in their catch, locals gather over coffee on the waterfront, and everyday life is part of the attraction." And while a few hot spots such as Dubrovnik's Old Town can feel crowded at peak times, much of the country retains that back-in-the-day vibe. "That sense of discovery is one of the country's greatest luxuries," Carter notes. New hotel developments are helping to lead visitors to these less-traveled corners: the five-star Hotel Marjan is slated to open on Split's waterfront in 2027, while the Hilton Lopud Beach Resort & Spa will bring a new luxury option to the quiet island of Lopud, near Dubrovnik, in summer 2027. It's also getting easier to fly there, thanks to United, which now has two nonstop flights between Newark and Croatia, with seasonal service to Dubrovnik and Split—a first for a U.S. carrier. —*Maddie Hiatt*



Sunset over the Da Nang, Vietnam. Photo: Pham Le Huong Son/Getty Images

DA NANG, VIETNAM

This coastal enclave, along with nearby destinations such as Hoi An and Hué, seems to be seriously trending—in part because of how under the radar it remains, said Sarah Moore, head of travel at Capital One, at the T+L World's Best Summit in July 2026. "We're seeing a lot of interest in Vietnam, and Da Nang in particular—more than 200 percent growth in interest." Capital One isn't the only company noting the surge: Skyscanner says searches for Da Nang are up more than 125 percent over the past 12 months, and Priceline has declared it one of the top destinations for 2027. One explanation could be all the new hotels that have opened, or are about to: Nhaan Resort & Spa Hoi An, Tapestry Collection by Hilton opened in August 2026 with four restaurants and an infinity pool; and Anantara Hoi An is getting a hefty revamp. Mandarin Oriental Residences, Da Nang is slated to open in 2027 on the beach—but also close to UNESCO World Heritage sites such as My Son Sanctuary and Hoi An Ancient Town. As for what to do once you arrive, Edward Gibbons, CEO of AboutAsia Travel, says to get up early. "One of my favorite ways to experience Da Nang is before breakfast," he explains. "Leave around 5:30 a.m. to see the fish market, then stop for a simple noodle breakfast and Vietnamese coffee, and finish with a quiet walk along the beach." —*Maya Kachroo-Levine*



A hot air balloon rises over Luxor, Egypt. Photo: Maria Ligaya/Travel + Leisure

LUXOR, EGYPT, & THE NILE RIVER

The legendary, enduring country of Egypt will take on a special shine in 2027, when a spectacular total solar eclipse crosses the skies over Luxor in August. With more than six minutes of totality, the celestial event will be one for the record books—and sky watchers have already started booking accommodations. Among T+L favorites in the destination are Al Moudira, the exquisitely designed boutique hotel, and its sibling property, Beit el Nil; the newly restored Winter Palace Hotel, set to reopen in July 2027 as Mandarin Oriental Winter Palace; and the elegant river ships that ply the Nile, like AmaWaterways' *AmaNubia,* which launches in November 2026. "Egypt is always compelling, but 2027 feels especially significant," says Brady Binstadt, CEO of tour operator Geographic Expeditions. "The eclipse will be an awe-inspiring event, and it will be even more moving to experience it in a place that has been studying the skies for millennia." The excitement is already spurring new developments along the Nile. Independent Egyptian brands such as Kemetale and Oro are building new vessels to give travelers more options for exploring the river, while Mandarin Oriental is renovating the Old Cataract, Aswan. Backroads is also jumping on the momentum, with its first "multi-adventure" trip in the country in 2027. The eight-day itinerary will combine visits to archaeological sites with hiking, biking, and even kayaking on the Nile. —*Paul Brady*









MALTA

It may be small at just 122 square miles, but this island nation packs nearly 8,000 years of culture into its tiny footprint. Home to a smattering of prehistoric landmarks—including seven megalithic temples—and a unique cuisine that borrows from Italian, North African, and Middle Eastern influences, Malta is "unlike any other place in the Mediterranean," says T+L A-List advisor Gary Portuesi. But it's not all ancient sites and historic cities like Mdina: in May, Suzanne and Christopher Sharp of the Rug Company opened the 17-key Casa Bonavita in a restored palazzo that dates to 1740; the 22-room Romègas Hotel, a sleek, townhouse-inspired property that's part of Preferred Hotels & Resorts, opened in the city in September. There's also a burgeoning contemporary art scene, as T+L has reported, that complements eternal draws like niche wines made from indigenous grapes and beaches on quiet coves that are lovely year-round, according to Portuesi. Little wonder, then, that Delta has recently added new seasonal nonstop flights between JFK and Malta International Airport. Yet for all the buzz, Malta remains a relatively affordable Mediterranean destination—at least for now—making the year ahead an ideal time to visit. "It's much better priced than other destinations that have become incredibly popular," Portuesi explains. "You can still get a luxury hotel room for less than €1,000" (about $1,100). —*Kim Hart*





From left: the Douro Valley; azulejo tiles in a gothic cloister of the Porto Cathedral. Photo: Alessandra Amodio/Travel + Leisure

PORTO, PORTUGAL, & THE DOURO VALLEY

In March 2027, American will launch nonstop service from Philadelphia International Airport to Porto Airport, bringing Portugal's effortlessly cool second city within easier reach. On the country's northwestern coast, Porto is best known for its dazzling blue-and-white azulejo tiles and, of course, its port wine, produced in the nearby Douro Valley. About 60 miles inland, the Douro draws travelers to its rolling hills, winding valleys, and terraced vineyards. And soon travelers will have another way to take it all in. In 2027, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises will debut the *São Rafael*, a ship purpose-built to sail the Douro River that will accommodate just 94 guests. "Porto has developed such a great food, wine, and design scene, and the Douro has become a destination in its own right," says Ellen Bettridge, president and CEO of Uniworld. "Our guests are looking for places that feel a little less predictable. Portugal gives you that combination of incredible food and wine, beautiful scenery, and history—but it still feels very authentic and approachable." —*Mae Hamilton*



The Cypress Swamp, near the Natchez Trace Parkway, in Mississippi. Photo: Thomas Faull/Getty Images

TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

This Southern city might be best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley, but for members of the Chickasaw Nation, the area holds a far deeper meaning: it was the homeland of these Indigenous people until 1837, when their forced relocation under the Indian Removal Act began. That history is part of why Tupelo was selected as the location for the forthcoming Chickasaw Heritage Center, which opens in March 2027 not far from the Natchez Trace Parkway, a 444-mile route now managed by the National Park Service. The new center will educate visitors on Chickasaw history, of course, but also the contemporary culture. "One of the most important things we want people to take home is connecting the past to the present, and that the Chickasaw have strong cultural continuity through time," says Brady Davis, CEO of the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation, which leads the project. Across the 162-acre campus, much of which will be free to visit, travelers can explore a 10,000-square-foot exhibit hall, an art gallery, archaeological collections, and walking trails that wind through a restored Blackland Prairie landscape. Also planned are a cafe, theater, playground, and reconstructed 18th-century Chickasaw village; a series of talks and visiting-artist events are also in the works. "We want this to be a place where people spend a Saturday: bring their children, hike the trails, get something to eat, and participate in a special activity," Davis tells T+L. —*Elizabeth Cantrell*

redpoint

DESTINATIONS FOR

ADVENTUROUS TRAVELERS



A scenic view of Denali National Park. Photo: Lauren Breedlove/Travel + Leisure

ALASKA

The largest state in the U.S. is gearing up for a big year. In 2027, Denali Park Road is expected to fully reopen after six years of limited access, making it possible again to reach Wonder Lake, Kantishna, and the park's remote western reaches. "For the first full season, wildlife encounters from the road will be substantially increased," says Andrew Roberts, partner and lead guide of EXP Journeys. This milestone coincides with another: Holland America Line's $70 million renovation of its Denali Lodge, which will add 72 guest rooms plus refreshed interiors and dining options. At sea, travelers will have new ways to explore Alaska in luxury: Explora Journeys will bring *Explora III* to the region in 2027, while the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's newest ship, *Luminara*, will sail Alaska itineraries in the summer. — *Susmita Baral*



A soccer game in Cabo Verde. Photo: Peter Adams/Getty Images

CABO VERDE

Sometimes watching a team break onto the global stage is inspiration enough to start planning a trip. That's certainly true of Cabo Verde, the sunny 10-island archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean about 400 miles off the coast of Senegal. The nation's fairy-tale run in the FIFA World Cup 2026 made it one of the tournament's most beloved teams—especially after its thrilling if heartbreaking 3–2 loss against Argentina in the Round of 32. The resulting momentum was palpable: Expedia says searches for the destination have surged more than 800 percent since 2025. Top of mind for most travelers? The superb climate, with average daily temperatures in the mid-70s and low 80s, as well as the extraordinary uncrowded beaches. The islands have also gotten easier to reach, thanks to the resumption of direct flights in May 2026 between Providence, Rhode Island, and Cabo Verde's capital, Praia. It's located on the island of Santiago, where visitors can explore the islands' history as a Portuguese colony, wander vibrant markets, and catch musical performances. From there, it's a quick flight to São Vicente, which has solid surf breaks and plenty of beautiful stretches of sand for lounging. The neighboring island of Santo Antão, meanwhile, has incredible hiking and a notable ecolodge, Mami Wata; on the island of Sal, the beachfront Hotel Morabeza is one of the country's standout luxury properties. —*Elizabeth Cantrell*



GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK, MOZAMBIQUE

What was once a wildlife wasteland, ravaged by civil war and hunting, has surged to become one of Africa's best—yet still under-the-radar—safari destinations. "Gorongosa is one of Africa's great conservation success stories," says Kevin Record, founder of Mozambique Travel, who first visited the park in 2003. "You can move from vast floodplains alive with wildlife into palm and fever-tree forests, with mountains rising beyond a wilderness that still feels remarkably untouched." Much of that rewilding has been the result of the long-term vision of the American entrepreneur Greg Carr, who partnered with the government of Mozambique in 2008 to improve management of the park. Then, in 2026, T+L recognized Gorongosa National Park with a Global Vision Award, noting how "Carr has spent tens of millions of dollars to restore habitats, reintroduce wildlife, employ rangers, and establish tented camps." At a moment when many of Africa's most popular safari spots are beginning to suffer the effects of too many tourists, Gorongosa offers a crowd-free alternative, Record says. —*Nikki Vargas*



The Peruvian Amazon. Photo: mariusz_prusaczyk/Getty Images

THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

Things are heating up in the jungles of Peru. In mid-2026, two major new conservation areas were established in the region, protecting more than 300,000 acres in total—among some of the most ecologically interesting places anywhere. "The Peruvian Amazon isn't just a rainforest; it is one of the most vibrant, biodiverse ecosystems on Earth," says Max Rodríguez, an economic and commercial counselor for Promperú, a government agency that promotes tourism and trade. "The region is anchored by protected havens like Manu National Park and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. But its magic goes far beyond the scenery. For generations, Indigenous communities like the Asháninka and Shipibo-Konibo have thrived here—their art, traditions, and daily lives deeply intertwined with the rhythms of the forest." And seeing both the natural and cultural sides of the destination will be a lighter lift after December 2026, when luxury tour operator andBeyond will launch its new 15-cabin expedition yacht, *Amazon Explorer,* offering three-, four-, and seven-night journeys. It will join several established players on the river, including Aqua Expeditions, Delfín Amazon Cruises, and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, which is the only mainstream line that offers multiweek expeditions between Iquitos and Belém, Brazil. —*Taylor McIntyre*



Puerto Williams, Chile. Photo: Juan Barreto/AFP/Getty Images

PUERTO WILLIAMS, CHILE

Often called the world's southernmost city, this settlement of a few thousand permanent residents at the bottom of South America is on the cusp of a major glow-up. In October 2026, the cruise line Silversea, a favorite among T+L readers, opened what it in turn calls the world's southernmost hotel, exclusively for guests on its Antarctica Fly Cruise expeditions. Years in the making, the property is called The Cormorant at 55 South, a nod to its approximate latitude. According to Silversea, it's designed to make the journey between Chile's capital of Santiago and King George Island in Antarctica smoother—and help guests avoid a two-day sailing across the Drake Passage. The 150-room hotel, which has incredible views of the the Beagle Channel and the surrounding forest is the perfect waystation for anyone headed to the White Continent. A spacious lobby lounge features a statement fireplace where guests can gather for coffee, a glass of wine, or, as I saw on a November visit, an endless supply of Chilean pisco sours, raised in celebration of Antarctic adventures to come. —*Paul Brady*



The coastline of Skanor, Sweden. Photo: Heather Durham/Travel + Leisure

SWEDEN

With midnight-sun summers, 31 national parks (all free to enter), some 90,000 lakes, and more than 250,000 islands, Sweden is not short on reasons to visit. And now rail enthusiasts have a new way to explore this Nordic gem. In June 2026, Swedish train operator Snälltåget launched a new daily route linking Malmö, the country's third-largest city, with Oslo, Norway. The 373-mile journey takes roughly 6½ hours, from Sweden's coastline through the forests of Dalsland to the fjord landscapes around the Norwegian capital. Travelers can book an individual seat or an entire compartment, while the restaurant carriage offers meals, self-serve coffee, and a Scandinavian favorite: prawn sandwiches. "The new route strengthens the link between southern Sweden and Norway, making it easier for travelers to combine two neighboring countries in one journey," says Marco Andersson, chief commercial manager at Snälltåget. "The value lies not only in connecting Malmö and Oslo, but also in opening up opportunities to explore the regions in between, from southern Sweden's landscapes and coastal areas to Nordic cities and nature experiences." —*Mae Hamilton*



A guest villa at Anantara Tented Camp Kafue River, in Zambia. Photo: Anantara Tented Camp Kafue River

ZAMBIA

When it comes to African safari destinations, there are legendary ecosystems like the Serengeti, and then there are the cutting-edge, bragging-rights kind of places where few dare to tread. Zambia has long belonged to the latter camp—but 2027 could be the moment more travelers discover what safari insiders have known for years. "Zambia is our under-the-radar destination, but it's one we routinely offer to clients," says Craig Beal, a member of the T+L A-List and the CEO of Travel Beyond, which specializes in travel to Africa. Located between Tanzania and Zimbabwe—both top safari options in their own right—Zambia offers wide-open spaces, excellent game viewing, and the sort of back-in-the-day experience that's becoming increasingly hard to find. "When I was there last year, I hardly saw any other travelers," says Alisha Prakash, T+L's editorial director. "A far cry from the 20 jeeps at one lion sighting you find in more popular destinations." Zambia is also gaining attention as travelers seek out more rugged and active adventures. The country is the birthplace of the walking safari, on which travelers jump out of their vehicles and explore the wilderness in the company of expert guides. Today, it's possible to wander on foot from Puku Ridge, a camp in South Luangwa National Park that's part of the newly created Zambia Luxury Lodge Collection, or at any of the five well-regarded Time + Tide camps in and around the park. Another option? The new Anantara Tented Camp Kafue River, which just opened in Kafue National Park. —*Paul Brady*

DESTINATIONS FOR

BEACH VIBES



A surfer in the Algarve, the sunny region in southern Portugal. Photo: Stephanie Pollak/Travel + Leisure

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

With more than 300 days of sunshine a year and 500-plus miles of coastline, Portugal is one of Europe's top beach destinations, and the sunny south is where that really comes into focus. In 2026, the Blue Flag program, run by the Foundation for Environmental Education, awarded 86 beaches in the area its coveted distinction for meeting high standards in safety, environmental management, and water quality. Adding to the region's appeal, the Conrad Meia Praia Algarve is scheduled to open near Lagos in spring 2027, with a beach club where guests can enjoy the pristine waters, a spa, indoor and outdoor pools, and two restaurants. The Formula 1 Portuguese Grand Prix will also return to the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve—known for its roller-coaster-like track—in June. Portimão, a port city between Lagos and Albufeira, will host the race for a limited, two-year stint. According to André Gomes, president of Turismo do Algarve, "Formula 1's return gives travelers an exciting new reason to experience the Algarve in 2027. Visitors can combine the energy of race weekend with the region's beaches, gastronomy, golf, and outdoor experiences, making this an ideal opportunity to stay longer and discover more." —*Elizabeth Rhodes*



The Cocoa Pier in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Photo: Brad McGinley Photography/Getty Images

COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

The state's Space Coast is gearing up for an exciting year—and Cocoa Beach may be the perfect place to experience the buzz. Scheduled to open in summer 2027, the 502-room Westin Cocoa Beach Resort & Spa will bring an elevated oceanfront retreat to the area. Time your visit to NASA's Artemis III mission and you could pair a luxury stay with a view of the historic rocket launch from an oceanview balcony or the sandy shores below. "Cocoa Beach has a personality that is completely its own—it has this laid-back beach town feel that hasn't been lost as the area has grown, but you're also right in the middle of one of the most exciting places in the world for space exploration," says Melissa Naughton, assistant director of business development and marketing for the Melbourne Orlando International Airport. "There aren't many places where you can sit barefoot on the beach and watch a rocket launch into space, then head out on the water and see dolphins or manatees." Low-cost carrier Sun Country Airlines will also bring back its seasonal nonstop flights between Minneapolis–St. Paul and Melbourne Orlando International, with service operating from late January through early April. "It's a great indication that there is demand for convenient access to Florida's Space Coast," Naughton says. "For people living in the Minneapolis area, the timing also provides an easy winter escape to the beach when they probably need it most." —*Annie Archer*



Sunset over the Gold Coast skyline. Photo: nazar_ab/Getty Images

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

On the eastern edge of the continent, the Gold Coast has always lived up to its name, with 44 miles of sunlit sand, rolling Pacific Ocean swells, and laid-back restaurants up and down the shore. But now, this quintessential beach escape and the city of the same name—a place historically known for its crowd-pleasing theme parks—is getting a glow-up, as luxury hotel brands touch down. Australia's first Andaz is set to open in Broadbeach, a suburb about five minutes south of the city center, in late 2026, followed in early 2027 by the country's first LXR Hotels & Resorts property, a reinvention of the former Palazzo Versace. Two other luxury flagships, a Ritz-Carlton and a St. Regis, are on the horizon for 2028. "These aren't just incremental additions," says T+L A-List advisor Suzy Mercien-Ferol of Touring Treasures, who is based in Queensland. "They're globally recognized brands that are reshaping how the destination is perceived and finally giving our clients a product that matches the experiences already on offer." There's more than just the beach, Mercien-Ferol explains: visitors can hike in the hinterland, connect with Indigenous artists in Bundjalung Country, sample small-batch gin made with local botanicals, or head out on the water to swim with whales or snorkel with turtles. The city and broader region have also become easier to reach from North America: the Gold Coast is just under an hour's drive from Brisbane Airport, which has nonstop service from major U.S. cities on carriers like American, Delta, Qantas, and United. Or, you can travel via Fiji Airways, which launched new flights to the Gold Coast in June 2026, with connections from the North American gateways of Dallas–Fort Worth, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Vancouver. —*Jess Feldman*



On the beach at Lāhainā, on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Photo: Daeja Fallas/Travel + Leisure

LĀHAINĀ, HAWAII

After deadly wildfires in 2023 devastated the community of Lāhainā, the historic Maui town is entering a new phase of recovery. In August 2026, the oceanside thoroughfare of Front Street reopened to traffic, a moment Mayor Richard Bissen described as "an important step in Lāhainā's healing journey." Restaurants and shops along the district's northern stretch are once again welcoming customers, and the new ʻUlu o Lele marketplace brings together 17 small businesses and eight food trucks, with space for performances and community events. Boat excursions—including winter whale-watching tours—have resumed from the harbor. Nearby, Lāhainā's historic banyan tree—long a beloved gathering place for locals and visitors alike—is putting out new growth after surviving the fires. It's "a sign of resilience," says Matt Murasko, the co-founder of Treecovery Hawaii, a nonprofit that is growing nearly 10,000 trees for families after an estimated 21,000 were lost in the fires. Also coming back is the Lāhainā Food & Wine Festival, in February 2027, which will celebrate the town while aiding on-going recovery efforts. —*Lisa Greissinger*



Beach chairs at the Vineta, in Palm Beach, Florida. Photo: Jason Nuttle/The Vineta Hotel

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Slick new hotels, bold restaurants, and a renovated airport: the state's most exclusive destination continues to reinvent itself, from the namesake barrier island to neighboring West Palm Beach and Boca Raton. Leading the charge is the Vineta, a storied 1926 landmark now reborn as the first U.S. outpost of Oetker Hotels. The 41-room property, styled in blues, pinks, and whites by Tino Zervudachi, cultivates a hush-hush scene at the mosaic-tiled pool and Champagne-soaked dinners at the Mediterranean-influenced Coco's. Not to be outdone, the nearby Brazilian Court Hotel has launched *BC One,* the resort's yacht, which is provisioned with snacks from Café Boulud for two-hour cruises. The Golf Club at the Boca Raton, meanwhile, is wrapping up a $25 million upgrade to its 18-hole course by architect Brian Silva. Outposts of New York City restaurants like Le Bilboquet have helped energize the dining scene, and a branch of Pastis will soon set up shop in the Nora, a new 201-room property from BD Hotels, which runs the Greenwich and the Mercer in NYC. Prefer the private-club vibe? Fletchers in downtown Boca Raton is one to watch: part restaurant, part club, with a Japanese-influenced menu from chef and former Olympian Michael Stember. At the Flagler Museum, the spring exhibition, "Gilded Age Jewelry: the Making of Modern Luxury," will be one of the most ambitious in the institution's history, while Phipps Ocean Park just got a $31 million glow-up. Arriving on the scene is getting easier, too, thanks to a $141 million expansion of the recently renamed airport's Concourse B. And new nonstop service from Los Angeles on Delta and from San Francisco on United makes it easier for West Coasters to jet in for a glamorous escape in the sun. —*Jacqui Gifford*



On the water in St. Lucia. Photo: Cate Brown/Travel + Leisure

ST. LUCIA

There's hardly a bad time to visit the island—its iconic Pitons, lush hillsides, and gorgeous coastline see to that. But 2027 is shaping up to be an especially exciting year for the Caribbean destination, and travelers are already catching on. Expedia reported a 125 percent increase in searches for St. Lucia year over year and named it a top spot for romantic escapes. Meanwhile, A'ila Resorts is continuing to roll out its $1.3 billion development plan, aimed at making St. Lucia the region's next wellness hot spot. The physician-led longevity resort TheLifeCo opened in April 2026, with more to come, including A'ila Palm, a luxury family resort, and A'ila Cove, an adults-only retreat. Once complete, the project is expected to include 500 longevity residences, 20 restaurants, and a marina and jetty with waterfront dining. The island's calendar is just as full. The Saint Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival takes over in the spring, followed by lively Carnival celebrations come summer. "It remains a popular vacation destination," says T+L A-List advisor Margie Hand. "I book this destination not only for honeymooners, but also for families and multigenerational groups. There is truly something here for everyone." —*Jalyn Robinson*









ST.-TROPEZ & THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

From Bain de Soleil's indelible "St.-Tropez tan" campaign in the 1980s to more recent name-checks in modern pop, including Post Malone's "Saint-Tropez" and Taylor Swift's "The Man," this region has long been synonymous with jet-set glamour. But in 2027, the Côte d'Azur will get a major boost from Season 4 of *The White Lotus,* which was filmed partly at the Château de La Messardière, a palace hotel set amid 32 acres of parasol pines, cypress trees, and jasmine. Meanwhile, Oetker Hotels, the group behind the legendary Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes, is planning to open Le Mas Bellevue, with 78 rooms spread across 11 hillside houses near Pampelonne Beach. In nearby Gassin, Nolinski Golfe de Saint-Tropez will transform the former Mas de Chastelas into the brand's first resort outside a city. Fashion is increasingly part of the luxury landscape, too: Louis Vuitton, Dior, Gucci, Jacquemus, and other major labels have turned hotels, restaurants, and beach clubs into immersive—and highly photogenic—extensions of their brands across the Riviera. —*Denny Lee*

DESTINATIONS FOR

NATURE LOVERS



The Noravank Monastery in the Vayots Dzor province of Armenia. Photo: Tuul & Bruno Morandi/Getty Images

ARMENIA

This country in the Caucasus is only the size of Maryland, but it contains some of the world's most staggering scenery: craggy mountains, sparkling lakes, ancient churches, and fairy-tale villages. The best way to take it all in might be to strap on a backpack and set out on foot. That's because the Armenian National Trail, which will eventually span more than 600 miles, is well on its way to completion, with more than 200 miles of walkways linked last year in the country's northeast. Add to that the 2025 signing of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal, and there's never been a better time to check out this country's rich and complex history. "On my last visit," says Greg Tepper, co-founder of luxury travel company Exeter International, "Armenia had far surpassed the development of Georgia. It now feels more refined, sophisticated, cleaner, and logistically vastly improved, with noticeably better roads." Amenities, too, are getting an upgrade: in 2027, several new hotels are opening, including both a Crowne Plaza and a Curio Collection property in the capital city of Yerevan. —*Peter Terzian*



Dramatic landscapes surround the Kallur Lighthouse in the Faroe Islands. Photo: Tessa Desjardins/Travel + Leisure

FAROE ISLANDS

Once reserved for only the most adventurous travelers, the Faroe Islands are becoming more accessible, thanks in part to the tour operator Backroads, which has recently unveiled a new hiking itinerary spanning both Iceland and the Faroe Islands. "There are few places in Europe where nature and daily life remain so closely intertwined, or where travelers can experience such a powerful sense of remoteness," says Alison Iles, regional director at Backroads. For those who prefer to explore at their own pace, the islands' recently expanded self-guided driving tour offers an appealing alternative. Travelers pick up a rental car with GPS coordinates preprogrammed into the vehicle, allowing them to venture out to discover hidden gems and encounter local life along the way. "Travelers often highlight the simple, personal encounters as some of their strongest memories," says Árni Winther Jákupsson, founder of local travel company Faroe Voyage. "These genuine connections are a big part of what makes the Faroe Islands unlike anywhere else in Europe." —*Mae Hamilton*



The ski slopes of Mount Yotei in Niseko, on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. Photo: Sergio Amiti/Getty Images

HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

The country's northernmost major island feels like Japan distilled to its wildest elements: deep powder, steaming onsens, volcanic peaks, and seafood pulled from icy waters. It has long drawn skiers to the legendary snow of Niseko, Furano, and Rusutsu, but getting there is about to become easier: in December 2026, Air Canada and United will both introduce seasonal nonstop flights to Sapporo, Hokkaido's capital city, from Vancouver and San Francisco, respectively, eliminating the need to connect through Tokyo. Niseko, meanwhile, continues to surge in popularity, particularly among American travelers seeking deep snow and better value than can be had at many stateside resorts. New hotels are coming online, too. Both the Chalet Ivy Weiss, which features unobstructed views of Mount Yotei in Niseko, and the InterContinental Sapporo opened in 2025; the Trunk(Hotel) Sapporo is scheduled for 2027. On the horizon are Aman and Six Senses properties, both already in the works. "Hokkaido lures travelers with a slice of Japan that still feels wild and undiscovered," says Mark Lakin, a member of T+L's Travel Advisory Board who specializes in Japan. —*Denny Lee*



Old Lighthouse Golf & Ocean Club by Jack Nicklaus at the Quivira Los Cabos, in Mexico. Photo: Bill Hornstein/Quivira Los Cabos

LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Let's cut right to the chase: there's now an Aman along Baja California Sur's East Cape. It's Mexico's first Aman, where a night in one of the 18 casitas can run as high as $7,000, proving that luxury developments in the Greater Los Cabos area are booming. To that end, St. Regis is coming to the Quivira community in Cabo San Lucas, while the enclave of Cabo del Sol welcomed the new Park Hyatt in 2025. And Soho House, not one to miss a rising hotel destination, will unveil a Soho Beach House along the Tourist Corridor separating Cabo San Lucas from San José del Cabo by year's end. While Los Cabos consistently draws recreational anglers in the fall and whale-watchers and divers in the winter, there's another activity surging here of late: golf. A new Ernie Els course at Oleada Golf Links will debut in November 2026, along with two other notable openings later this year: the first all-inclusive Grand Hyatt and the private community Old Lighthouse Golf & Ocean Club by Jack Nicklaus. They're all teeing up Tiger Woods's third Los Cabos golf course, set to open at Diamante Cabo San Lucas in 2027. — *Maya Kachroo-Levine*



Rhinos seen while on a game drive from Wilderness Mara, in Kenya. Photo: Wilderness

MAASAI MARA, KENYA

Sometimes you've got to run it back. Kenya's Maasai Mara appeared on T+L's 2026 Where to Go list, but the allure of this legendary safari destination has only grown stronger since then. "In the last two or three years, half the people that hit our website ask about the migration," says Craig Beal, an A-List advisor and owner of the agency Travel Beyond. Often called the Great Migration, this annual movement of millions of wildebeests and zebras across the Mara River is one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles. Other safari experts are seeing the same thing. "People are thinking of the grand, glorious picture of the Mara River," says Annie Irankunda of Timbuktu Travel. And Kent Redding of Africa Adventure Consultants says Kenya bookings were up nearly 30 percent in 2026 compared to the year before. Those visitors are finding an increasing number of luxe accommodations: Wilderness Mara, a 12-suite tented camp along the Mara River, opened in 2026, as did Zamara Private, a six-suite residence by Great Plains, which also operates other top properties such as Mara Toto Tree Camp, named one of the best new hotels of the world in 2025 by T+L. (It's also true that the Mara has suffered from overcrowding at certain river crossings, as well as dangerous behavior by guides and guests, some of which has been captured in viral videos.) Yet the famed migration is not the only wonder to behold here. In fact, says Irankunda, travelers can find stunning wildlife anytime, particularly if they choose responsibly managed camps and lodges on private conservancies, like Angama Mara or Naboisho Camp by Asilia. For his part, Beal recommends Tanguila Mara, an intimate tented camp. Besides being one of the few locally owned properties in the region, Tanguila also offers walking safaris, something of a rarity in the Mara—and perhaps the next frontier of tourism for an eternally popular place. —*Elizabeth Cantrell*



Kouchibouguac National Park in the Dark Sky Corridor of New Brunswick, Canada. Photo: Maxime Coquard/New Brunswick Tourism

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

The night sky is fast becoming one of the biggest attractions in this underrated province. Already home to a handful of certified dark-sky destinations, New Brunswick is at work knitting together a 137-mile-long dark-sky corridor that's slated to officially debut in late 2027. "Organizers are aiming to make the region the densest concentration of certified dark-sky sites in the world," says astrophotographer and T+L contributor Michael d'Estries, who has been writing about science and astronomy for two decades. "The night sky should be a memorable part of a much richer destination experience: the incredible Bay of Fundy, rugged coastlines, national parks, and local food and culture." Indeed, that mix of both spectacular stargazing and enriching daytime experiences is what makes the province stand out from other parts of the country—as does the broader sweep of Atlantic Canada, which includes the additional provinces of Nova Scotia; Newfoundland and Labrador; and Prince Edward Island. Across the full region, visitors can explore 13 UNESCO-designated sites, including Biosphere Regions, Global Geoparks, and World Heritage sites, all within relatively close proximity. —*Erianne Lewis*



Wildflowers and mountain views in Greece's Peloponnese region. Photo: Amanda Blackard/Travel + Leisure

PELOPONNESE, GREECE

"This is one of the parts of Greece where you can still easily experience the country as locals do," says Christos Stergiou, a T+L A-List advisor and founder of TrueTrips. "You go on a hike and end up at a monastery where monks who live largely removed from modern life welcome you with a cup of Greek coffee." That under-the-radar allure of this region still holds, even after its recent moment in the spotlight: the mountains and shores of the Peloponnese stood in for the broader Aegean in *The Odyssey,* the Christopher Nolan blockbuster that returns to theaters in December 2026. Not that going to Greece needs to be a perilous journey. In 2027, Natural Habitat Adventures' new Cultural Journeys collection will offer a 10-day Greek Odyssey that pairs private boat cruises with olive-farm visits, silversmithing workshops, forest foraging, and meals with local hosts. Other outfitters—including Backroads, Trafalgar, and Unforgettable Greece—also have active trips in the peninsula. Those exploring on their own can tackle the routes of the Peloponnese Trails network, which officially debuted in summer 2026 with more than 1,000 miles of routes. —*Alisha Prakash*



El Nido, in the Philippines. Photo: Maria Ligaya/Travel + Leisure

PHILIPPINES

Beautiful beaches, gorgeous islands, and some of the warmest hospitality anywhere have long been hallmarks of this tropical destination—but it's always been a bit of a haul from the U.S. Yet 2027 could be the year everything changes for the Philippines, thanks to new air service: Delta plans to launch the first nonstops between Los Angeles and Manila operated by a U.S. carrier come March 2027, while Philippine Airlines is scheduled to start Chicago-to-Manila service in November 2026, a first for the city pair. At the same time, Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport is in the midst of a major overhaul that has transformed Terminal 3, which serves international carriers, into a first-class facility featuring "biometric e-gates and a new premium lounge," according to Rappler. Cruise lines are also beginning to turn their attention to the country. The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, for example, made the Philippines part of its inaugural Asia-Pacific season with a January call in Puerto Princesa. That city, on the island of Palawan, is a gateway to some of the most incredible snorkeling and swimming anywhere in the world, as T+L has reported. And surely that's worth flying for. —*Alisha Prakash*

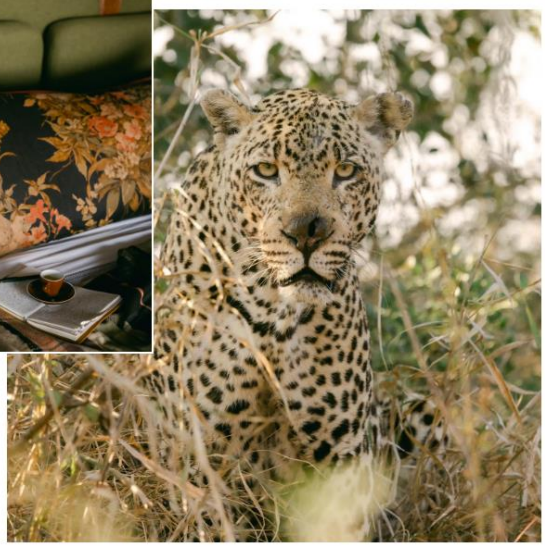


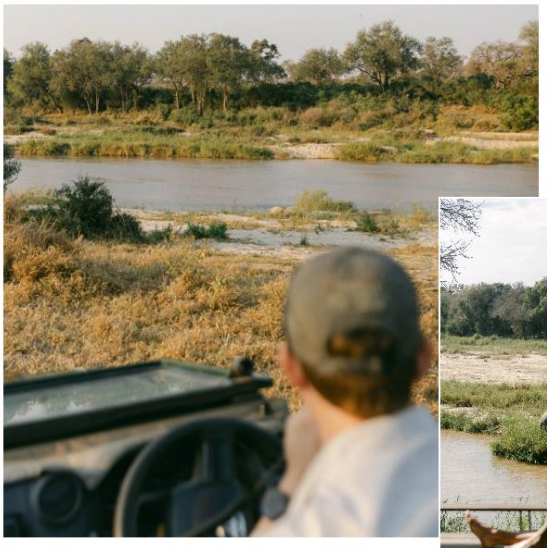
Hiking the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. Photo: Getty Images

ROMANIA

This Eastern European country has long had all the makings of a tourism hot spot—the forested peaks of the Carpathian Mountains, centuries-old Saxon villages, and vast stretches of untrammeled countryside. But it has remained largely overlooked by international travelers. That may change in 2027, as the country's wildest corners will become a bit more accessible thanks to active-travel outfitter Backroads, which is offering a six-day hiking tour of Romania for the first time. "We designed this trip to reveal a side of Transylvania that goes well beyond the Dracula legend," says Avery Hale Smith, chief experience officer at Backroads. The itinerary will follow sections of the Via Transilvanica, a nearly thousand-mile trail network that threads through forests, medieval towns, and rural communities; a 20-year expansion plan aims to forge additional routes to reach even more remote areas. One waypoint for Backroads will be the medieval city of Brașov, where the landmark Aro Palace, dating to 1939, is expected to reopen as the country's first Hyatt-branded hotel in early 2028. Before that, the mountainous region of Harghita will serve up a yearlong program of culinary festivals and other events, having been named a European Region of Gastronomy for 2027 by the nonprofit International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism. "With spectacular hiking, rich cultural heritage, and a growing collection of high-quality hotels and lodges, it's a wonder Romania has remained under the radar for so long," Smith says. "Now feels like the perfect time to experience it." — *Jess Feldman*









SABI SAND GAME RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA

Located in the country's northeast, this iconic safari destination has drawn wildlife lovers for decades, thanks to its huge concentration of animals—including the Big Five—and high-end lodging that ranks among the best on the continent. But there's recently been even more afoot in the region's carefully managed conservancies, particularly along the Sand River, the cornerstone of the ecosystem. The growing Tengile MalaMala Collection is bringing fresh energy to a well-established wildlife corridor with three rustic camps and a pair of proper lodges. The brand's crown jewel, Khensani River Lodge, is slated to open in December 2026 with nine suites, each with a plunge pool. There's also a central building housing the riverview dining room, lounges, a wine cellar, and a library. Game drives will remain a central focus, but Khensani will also have a stand-alone wellness center for those who want to mix time in the wild with movement practices, sauna sessions, and cold plunges. "The lodge has been 15 years in the making, in partnership with the local community, and its name means 'give thanks' in Xitsonga, which feels very fitting," says Savannah Saad, a managing director for the group, who grew up visiting the area. "Khensani feels like a new chapter for Tengile MalaMala Collection and for our family." —*Paul Brady*



Ytri, the island retreat in Norway's Træna archipelago. Photo: Jonathan Vivaas/Ytri Island Retreat

TRÆNA, NORWAY

It's admittedly not easy to get to this cluster of 477 islands off the country's northwestern coast. But if there's ever been a time to make the 2½-hour ferry trip from the mainland, 2027 is it. That's largely thanks to Ytri, a new 38-room lodge with architecture and interiors that pay homage to the surrounding archipelago, which has been home to a small fishing community for centuries. There's much to explore, including Kirkhelleren, a majestic sea cave long used by the islanders (and now the site of concerts during the annual music festival). "Træna has incredible mountain formations, magical light, the midnight sun, and the northern lights," says Torunn Tronsvang, founder of the travel company Up Norway. "But it's not only nature that makes Træna special—it's the people. Travelers get to experience a place that is remote but still full of creativity, entrepreneurship, history, and life." —*Peter Terzian*

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