

Gellert
spa bath in
Budapest

Where to Go in

2020

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The best way to plan a trip is to think about what you love to do and when you need a break—not which destination you have yet to check off some list. With these key points in mind, we found 24 inspiring spots that are especially enticing right now. *Photograph by Federico Ciamei*

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Edited by
Nikki Ekstein

Businessweek.com

An overwater bungalow at Antigua's Royalton Resort

If You Want The Beach

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Antigua

DECEMBER-APRIL

Overwater bungalows, a rarity in the Caribbean, are shaking up Antigua's bland reputation. So will direct flights from four major airlines and a smattering of fresh five-star hotels. The biggest splash comes courtesy of Royalton Luxury Resorts, which planted its flag on the island's northwestern shore last summer. Its stilted thatched-roof pavilions have plunge pools, and hammock nets jutting out above the ocean. Access is increasingly easy from New York, Miami, and the U.K.—to an airport that's especially efficient and modern. And if sleeping above the surf isn't your thing, there's Carlisle Bay, an island institution that's been freshly renovated, or the just-opened, all-inclusive Hammock Cove, where the bathrooms are larger than many Manhattan apartments.



Riviera Nayarit

For each destination, we've recommended the very best time to go. For more detailed data, including luxury hotel room rates, visit bloombergpursuits.com

DECEMBER–MARCH

Mexico's next go-to vacation spot is across the Sea of Cortez from Cabo and feels worlds away. Instead of rugged shores and desert landscapes, Riviera Nayarit has 200 miles of tranquil coast and verdant jungle. Golf clubs trump nightclubs in Punta Mita, where the St. Regis and Four Seasons just got face-lifts. But Cabo and Nayarit will eventually have one thing in common: hotels from every conceivable luxury brand, including Rosewood and Auberge. Conrad opens first, in May, with seven restaurants and a Mexican steam bath, or *temazcal*; June will welcome a One&Only with a polo club and zip line.

Jamaica

APRIL–MAY

Jamaica's powerful tourism industry will get extra buzz after the April release of *No Time to Die*, Daniel Craig's last James Bond movie, which was filmed partially in Port Antonio. That's where owner Jon Baker has expanded the beloved Geejam Hotel to include a sea-facing infinity pool, a stage for live music, and 12 "studio" rooms each designed by a different emerging artist. Meanwhile, an offshoot of Half Moon resort, which the fictional spy patronized in 1973's *Live and Let Die*, will open in Montego Bay in March. The 57-room Eclipse at Half Moon will have hammocks slung on coconut trees outside its casual restaurant, Spice—perfect for sleeping off a mai tai or piña colada. Even Dr. No would say yes to that.



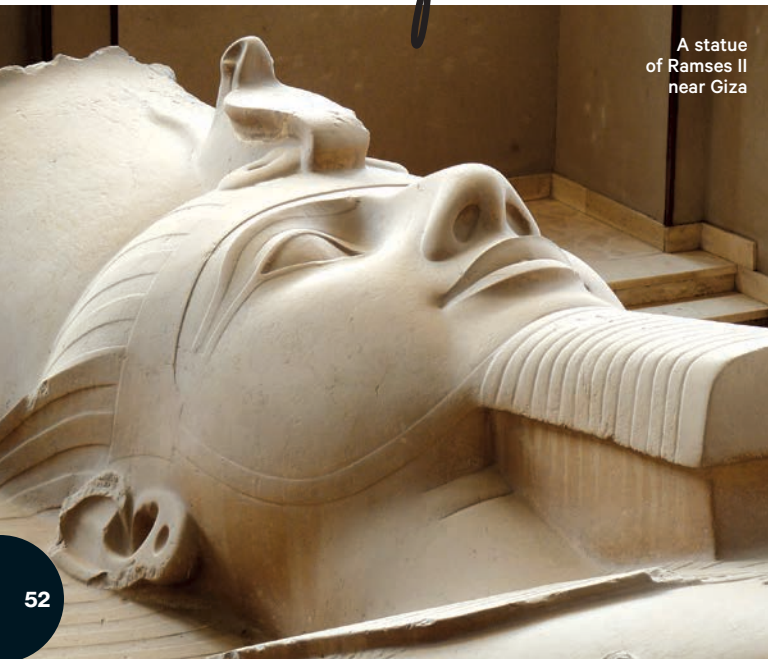
Cliff diving in Jamaica

Mozambique

MAY–SEPTEMBER

With dozens of white-sand islets ringed by vibrant marine life, Mozambique is Africa's under-the-radar answer to the Maldives. Despite weathering back-to-back cyclones last year, the country is more enchanting than ever. Its most impressive newcomer, Kisawa Sanctuary, will command rates of \$5,500 a night when it opens this summer; each of its 12 rooms sits on a full acre of sand on Benguerra Island. The resort is purportedly the first in the world to (at least partly) 3D-print its structures, combining sand and seawater to make mortar. Better yet, its nonprofit arm, the Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies, will use the technology to help propagate local coral reefs.

Ruins to Explore



A statue of Ramses II near Giza

52

Cairo

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER

Ancient history never looked so fresh. When the Grand Egyptian Museum finally opens in the fall, the entire collection of precious objects from the Upper and Lower kingdoms will be showcased together for the first time with the respect it deserves—in a half-billion-dollar space near the Giza pyramids.

More forthcoming draws include renovated historic Jewish synagogues such as the 116-year-old Sha'ar Hashamayim and a sumptuous St. Regis by Michael Graves Architecture & Design. Book through Abercrombie & Kent, and you'll have access to flexible flights on private jets to get around the country—a relief from EgyptAir's strict early morning schedules.

Guatemala

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER

Channel your inner Indiana Jones at newly accessible Mayan sites such as Holmul, a buried city so large it's taken two decades to excavate. On private trips with Big Five Tours & Expeditions, you can even meet the archaeologists currently at work. Meanwhile, Black Tomato is bringing beautiful mobile tents to the turquoise lakes of Semuc Champey; they're like a series of desert oases surrounded by thick jungle instead of sand. Dust off in the colonial capital of Antigua, where Villa Bokeh, opening in September, will be the city's first design hotel. The 16-key mansion, formerly owned by acclaimed Guatemalan photographer Lissie Habie, is being meticulously reimaged as a throwback to the city's glory days.

Vibrant Culture

Kyrgyzstan

MAY–SEPTEMBER

It's a logistical challenge to hit this destination's nomadic villages, picturesque mosques, and Brutalist architecture on one luxury trip. But Steppes Travel, which has led vacations in Kyrgyzstan since the '90s, now offers en suite yurts along the mystical shores of Song Kol Lake and helicopter service to sidestep bumpy back roads to see the country's three 23,000-foot-plus mountains. Voygr, another high-end adventure operator, offers your best chance at sighting a snow leopard with guided walks in the Tien Shan mountain range. And for the easiest (and plushiest) CliffsNotes introduction, Golden Eagle Luxury Trains will inaugurate its Republics of the Silk Road route in the spring.

Ethiopia

OCTOBER–FEBRUARY

The first step to getting on travelers' bucket lists is to have a tourism ministry that cares, and few care like Ethiopia's. In 2015 it set out to make the country a top five African destination by 2020; in 2018 tourism grew 48.6% from the previous year, faster than any other country. Its formula is a mix of history (the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela), cultural experiences with the tribes of the Omo Valley, and wildlife viewing in the Bale and Simien mountains. Plus, Ethiopian Airlines is offering new routes from Houston and Chicago, and Journeys by Design has added helicopter safaris in the north with an anthropological twist. Travelers see species such as walia ibex and gelada baboons as well as religious sites and 1,000-year-old fortresses—with expert guides including one of the paleontologists who discovered Lucy.



Church of St. George in Lalibela

Europe Unexpected

Biogradska Gora National Park

Montenegro

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

Move over, Croatia: This tiny Balkan nation has slowly positioned itself as the new jewel of the Adriatic with a mix of centuries-old villages, aristocratic mansions, and activities beyond its pebbly beaches. Local adventure outfit Black Mountain is beginning conservation-centric journeys to see the brown bear, gray wolf, Eurasian lynx, and other threatened species in Durmitor and Biogradska Gora national parks. Connect those destinations with the coast, where Iberostar, Melia, and Karisma Hotels & Resorts have opened properties in the past year. And don't miss Portonovi, a billion-dollar, 60-acre yachting playground on Boka Bay. In June its marina will welcome Europe's first One&Only resort and an Espace Chenot spa. Cruise right in, or fly Lufthansa to the port town of Tivat. Either way, you'll bypass hectic Dubrovnik.

Ionian Islands

MAY–SEPTEMBER

Free from the high prices and tempestuous winds that plague Mykonos and Santorini, the island chain where Odysseus set sail is emerging as a slower, more peaceful, and—dare we say—more epic twist on Grecian summer. For those spoiled by the Cyclades' famed resorts,

Kanoni Estate on Corfu can be booked via Red Savannah for groups of 18; it featured as Hector Gonzales's mansion in yet another James Bond movie, *For Your Eyes Only*. On Meganisi, villa rental agency Thinking Traveller offers the stunning Galatea, whose wraparound floor-to-ceiling windows face the sea. But best of all might be climbing aboard the fully staffed *Alexa J*, a 38-meter schooner yacht with just one opulent cabin.



Galleria Vik

Northern Italy

APRIL–JUNE

Sicily and Puglia will continue to trend, but 2020 is the year to head north. Start in Milan, where the owners of Galleria Vik have adorned 89 stuccoed rooms with their fabulous contemporary art. One of the world's best chefs, Massimo Bottura, and his wife, Lara, have done the same at their new 12-room country estate, near Modena—Casa Maria Luigia has Warhols and Hirsts to spare. Even further up, the Dolomites region is busily preparing for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Cortina. Depending on your interests, you can book into Lefay Resort & Spa, a wellness retreat with thermal pools, fitness trails, and a medicinal garden in Trento; Castel Hörtenberg, with 24 elegant rooms in medieval Bolzano; or the Adler Lodge Ritten, a hypermodern chalet kissing the Austrian border.

AutoCamp
Yosemite

When You Crave the Great Outdoors

54



Yosemite

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER

Sleeping in the shadow of El Capitan never fails to send a chill up your spine. Unfortunately, that's been due in part to a lack of comfortable accommodations.

Thankfully, plush (and low-impact) digs are sprouting up: Since April, AutoCamp has offered "rooms" in converted Airstreams—each with a private patio, fire pit, and walk-in shower—outside the gateway town of Mariposa. In the park, Camp'd Out has added pop-up

glampsites, complete with mud-cloth throw pillows, s'mores kits, and butler service. And Under Canvas Inc., which pioneered lifestyle camping in U.S. national parks, will open in the fall. Its 90 wood-platformed tents will be set on 85 acres just 15 minutes from Yosemite's entrance.



A seaplane lands in Queensland

Queensland

JUNE-SEPTEMBER

The Great Barrier Reef is in a precarious state, but eco-friendly ways to see it are flourishing. In April artist Jason deCaires Taylor will unveil his Museum of Underwater Art, a multisite installation that includes a greenhouse on the ocean floor. Local outfit Cruise Whitsundays just opened Reefsuites, Australia's first underwater accommodations, built under a floating platform. For daytrips, the private Hamilton Island resort choppers guests to a wind- and solar-powered pontoon near the previously inaccessible Heart Reef lagoon. Divers often pit-stop in Brisbane, which will soon accept flights from San Francisco and Chicago. The workaday state capital is suddenly cool with a 50,000-square-foot exhibition space, a craft brewery, and an art-inspired hotel called the Fantauzzo lining its formerly derelict shipping port. A Rosewood and Ritz-Carlton are on the way, too.

Andalucía

OCTOBER-MARCH

Outside perennially popular Seville, the countryside still holds many secrets. Its carefully safeguarded *pueblos blancos*—all-white villages nestled in the mountaintops—and rural estates are among Europe's most unspoiled spots. Explore them on horseback with George Scott, a professional rider and second-generation co-owner of the bohemian estancia Trasierra. His three-day circuits, starting and ending at the property, visit rugged corners of the outback. Another family-owned Andalucian destination, Hacienda de San Rafael, is being taken over by the next generation with a focus on hiking and culinary excursions. Bookend your trip in charming Málaga, where you can now stay at the Palacio Solecio in an 18th century Moorish-inspired palace.



Exploring Andalucía on horseback

Explora Uyuni



Bolivia

JUNE-OCTOBER

While Bolivia has been in crisis, its citizens have been busy taking tourism into their own hands. What they've created is impressive: an all-in-one luxury vacation circuit spanning mountains, desert, jungle, and city. La Paz, already recognized for its surprising dining scene, is getting a hotel to match. The 10-room Altu Qala in the capital's colonial core opens midyear with meticulous artisan tile work and Murano glass fixtures. Around the same time, South American luxury operator Explora will begin welcoming guests in three spare lodges along the salt flats of Uyuni. Then there are Hershey's Kiss-shaped glamping tents from Bolivia Milenaria, a husband-and-wife-run outfit. They set up shop in Torotoro National Park, where dinosaur footprints are baked into the clay earth, and the so-called Valley of the Condors—one of the only places in the world to view the enormous birds.

COURTESY TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND (QUEENSLAND); LENA SAUGEN (ANDALUCIA); COURTESY EXPLORA (BOLIVIA)

West Hollywood

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER

Within its 1.9 square miles, WeHo has always claimed an unfair number of attractions, whether the Troubadour or Chateau Marmont. Now it's making a push for even more stars—Michelin stars, that is. A pair of them were awarded to the 16-seat Sushi Ginza Onodera and more may go to Wolfgang Puck's two restaurants, coming in the spring to the Martin Brudnizki-designed Pendry West Hollywood hotel on Sunset. Likewise, the kitchen of the nearby Edition is run by New York chef John Fraser. Find more conventional cinematic stars at the 1 Hotel West Hollywood and San Vicente Bungalows—the latest project from Sunset Tower's Jeff Klein—or memorialized just beyond the district's borders, at the long-delayed Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

Bangkok

NOVEMBER–FEBRUARY

Even if you're one of the 20 million visitors that made it the world's most visited city in 2018, for the fourth year running, chances are you'd return to find the Thai capital reborn. IconSiam, a \$1.8 billion shopping complex, has revitalized the Chao Phraya River's western bank with an indoor floating market, a fancy bistro by Alain Ducasse, and an illuminated fountain as long

as the Empire State Building is tall. On the other shore, the 143-year-old, newly renovated Mandarin Oriental has two glitzy neighbors: the Capella Bangkok, with its Mauro Colagreco restaurant, and the Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok, with a pool large enough to host yoga classes on stand-up paddleboards. Plus, a fleet of electric ferries will zip passengers to the Grand Palace by summer.

Omakase at Sushi Ginza Onodera

Consider a *Ok*



Classic City

Budapest

APRIL–JUNE

Stop thinking about the Queen of the Danube as just a way station for backpackers and river cruisers. Budapest will welcome no fewer than seven five-star hotels in the next two years. They include a 162-room W that will occupy the long-dormant neo-Renaissance Drechsler Palace, opposite the Hungarian State Opera house. In July, Marriott's Luxury Collection will unveil the Matild Palace, once home to Princess Clotilde of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, which will have a glassed-in "sky bar" and a brasserie lined with traditional Zsolnay porcelain tiles. (It's within walking distance of the city's famous Gellert spa bath.) Bonus: There are new flights on a half-dozen airlines from Chicago, New York, Seoul, and Shanghai—plus a dining scene that's shedding its humble reputation.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FEDERICO CAMEI FOR BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK

If You Want Quiet Time...

Lombok

APRIL–OCTOBER

Bali's unsung neighbor may lack Hindu temples, but it has pristine, undeveloped beaches and waterfalls to spare. Following the expansion of Lombok's airport (and a major earthquake) in 2018, resorts such as the garden-shrouded Oberoi and the antique-filled Hotel Tugu have lured sun seekers to a tiny peninsula facing the Gili Islands. Nearby, in March, the Legian Sire will add 46 suites and 15 pool villas along with boat service to explore pearl farms, markets, and brilliant coral reefs. Farther afield, Aqua Expeditions is now sailing in the eastern archipelago, with chef Benjamin Cross (of Spain's three-Michelin-starred Can Fabes) drawing inspiration from the Spice Islands.

Israel

FEBRUARY–MAY

Biblical landscapes will get a modern edge this April, when Six Senses Shoharut opens on 46 acres of desert dunes. It'll have saunas and hammams, camel rides through the Negev, minimal artificial lighting, and a tented restaurant featuring a traditional Bedouin sand oven. Get there via the recently completed (and architecturally dazzling) Ramon Airport, only an hour's drive away. Upgrades continue in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as well—where Brown Hotels, the local authority for stylish stays, is working on a major expansion. Prioritize JLM, near the new Museum of Tolerance, and Hotel BoBo, with a funky aesthetic that accentuates the Mediterranean Sea views.





Six Senses Shaharut

... or Wine Time ...

Finger Lakes

MAY-JUNE

Named for its 11 digit-shaped lakes, this bucolic region in central New York counts more than 100 wineries—of which Red Tail Ridge was the first to win a coveted James Beard nomination last year. It's roughly an hour south of the wine-centric new-American restaurant Redd, an offshoot of the Michelin-starred

Redd Wood in Napa Valley. For sophisticated accommodations, American Girl founder Pleasant Rowland owns five inns in Aurora, and the Brooklyn-based design wizards at Studio Tack will open the Lake House on Canandaigua this summer, complete with a spa and timber-framed event barn. The area is also the birthplace of the women's rights movement and will commemorate the 19th Amendment's centennial with parades, museum exhibits, and a new home for the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Inland Alaska

FEBRUARY-MARCH

The cruise crowds are racing against climate change to see this northernmost state, where glaciers are shrinking at record clip. That shouldn't discourage anyone; instead, it's reason to delve deeper inland, where the landscapes are (still) frozen in time and insulated from the coastal traffic. Mother Nature has a strong year in store for Alaska's dark skies; the practically inaccessible Sheldon Chalet, a glamorous oasis inside Denali National Park & Preserve, has planned a year of programming around celestial events, including some penumbral eclipses. If daytime explorations are more appealing, Tordrillo Mountain Lodge—fresh off a multimillion-dollar renovation—now includes the state's only *via ferrata* (protected climbing route) and heli-biking trails.

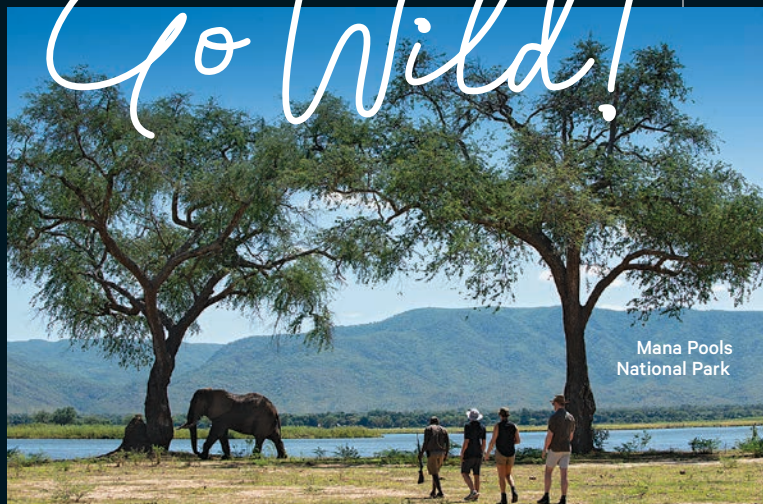
Hawaii

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Hotels on the Hawaiian Islands are getting ever more serious about the health factor that luxury travelers increasingly crave. Auberge Resorts' reboot of Mauna Lani—one of the oldest and most beloved hotels on the Big Island—will open in January with a sports program designed by surf legends

Gabby and Laird Hamilton. It'll focus not on cutbacks and foam climbs, but on breathing—a hot trend. On the tiny island of Lanai, where Four Seasons already runs a best-in-class resort founded by Oracle billionaire Larry Ellison, the same company just opened its first Sensei Retreat, a 96-room, all-inclusive getaway with a high-tech spa and farm-to-table restaurant by Nobu Matsuhisa.

... or Just to Go Wild!



Mana Pools National Park

Zimbabwe

JUNE-NOVEMBER

It's a wonder so many travelers never make it past Victoria Falls when some of Africa's biggest concentrations of wildlife, most qualified guides, and best all-around values are just beyond its roaring depths. Now that the Robert Mugabe era is over, though, Zimbabwe is a better bet—and laws that encourage hunting in next-door Botswana are driving some adventurers here instead. An hour from the falls, in Mana Pools National Park, Wilderness Safaris' Chikwenya Camp has seven tents at the confluence of the Sapi and Zambezi rivers. Nearby, the Zimbabwean-owned Nyamatusi Camp offers canoeing, walking safaris, and the chance to catch the famously ferocious tigerfish.

By Eleni Chrepa, Sara Clemence, Lisa Fleisher, Naureen Malik, Jen Murphy, Brooke Porter Katz, Brandon Presser, Chris Rovzar, Antony Sguazzin, Zoltán Simon, Randy Thanthong-Knight, Hailey Waller, and Gisela Williams