



# Ready. Set. Go.

WE MADE IT EASY FOR YOU. WE ASKED OUR TRAVEL EXPERTS WHERE THEY WANT TO GO IN 2020. THEIR ANSWERS WILL SURPRISE AND INSPIRE YOU. PRESENTING 27 ADVENTURES TO GET YOU OUT IN THE WORLD THIS YEAR.

Lagoa do Fogo, on the island of São Miguel in the Azores



Hoshinoya Guguan in Taiwan; below, Billy Motel in West Virginia

## WEST VIRGINIA Still Wild as Hell

The Mountain State may be the most underrated adventure destination in the country, with everything from multi-pitch climbing up towering cliffs to Class V whitewater. Most of the action happens around Monongahela National Forest, a.k.a. the Mon, 921,000 acres of terrain that's uncharacteristically rugged for the eastern seaboard. After the region's Snowshoe Mountain Resort hosted the UCI World Cup mountain-biking finals last fall, word started to get out: the Mon can play. Snowshoe's lift-served bike park was recently named a bronze-level IMBA Ride Center and has resurrected old-school (translation: gnarly) backcountry singletrack. After a few days of riding, move north to Seneca Rocks, a 900-foot-tall crag that's a hotbed of trad climbing. Finish your trip hiking through Dolly Sods Wilderness, 17,000 acres of red spruce forest. Base out of the recently renovated, ten-room Billy Motel in the town of Davis (from \$110). The midcentury design and craft cocktails will make you think you're in a hipster enclave, but rest assured: you're in West, by God, Virginia. —Graham Averill



## TAIWAN A Mountain Mecca

As Asian nations go, this tiny, teardrop-shaped island off mainland China isn't known for its mountains. But 70 percent of the country is covered with lush tropical peaks teeming with trails and hot springs. Taiwan's compact size means that adventure is never more than two hours away by bullet train from any major city. Our recommendation? From Taipei, head for Taichung Valley to the new Hoshinoya Guguan, a tranquil, 50-room resort located along the Dajia River (from \$573). It's an ideal launch point to hike 12,966-foot Jade Mountain, the tallest peak in northeast Asia. Or try nearby Snow Mountain, with its razor-edged cliffs and hiking routes, including the Holy Ridge Trail, a 9.3-mile technical route up and down scree slopes to the 12,749-foot summit.

—Devin Gordon

## JAPAN. THREE WAYS

If you're heading to the Olympic Games this summer, we've got your adventure detours covered —Kassandra Cloos

### Maruyama River, Toyooka

In the city of Toyooka, five hours west of Tokyo by train, the Japanese national rowing team trains on the Maruyama River. Rent a kayak from Maruyamagawa Park (from \$4 per hour) to paddle it, or head four miles north to San'in Kaigan Geopark for a guided kayak tour through stunning rock formations with Mother Earth (from \$64).

### Southern Daisetsuzan Traverse, Hokkaido

There's more to Japan's northernmost island than skiing at Niseko. The region, a 90-minute flight from Tokyo, has plenty going on in summer, too. Tackle the Southern Daisetsuzan Traverse, a 22-mile path along a string of active volcanoes. Trek on your own, staying at campsites within Daisetsuzan National Park, or book a guide with Travel Hokkaido (from \$387).

### Michinoku Coastal Trail, Tohoku

In the mountainous Tohoku region, northeast of Tokyo, there's the 637-mile Michinoku Coastal Trail. For a day hike, opt for the 7.7-mile Oku-Matsushima and Urato Islands Course. There you'll find Matsushima Bay, which is filled with 260 small pine-covered islands.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF HOSHINO RESORTS; COURTESY OF J. RYAN BRUBAKER/THE BILLY MOTEL. OPENING PAGES: RAZVAN CIUCA/GETTY IMAGES.



Clockwise: K2's peak from base camp; Colorado's Ute Mountain Tribal Park; Posada, a new hotel in Arizona



## ARIZONA A Cyclist's Dream

While its better-known California cousin Joshua Tree attracts three million visitors a year, Saguaro National Park, divided by Tucson, sees barely a million and is a biker's paradise. From downtown Tucson, the 131-mile Loop gets you within two miles of the park. In winter, when temperatures hover in the mid-sixties, this region is a training ground for professional bikers. At the park's eastern Rincon Mountain District, mountain bikers will find a section of singletrack that links to more than 800 miles of dirt riding along the Arizona Trail. Overnight at the RV-friendly, 130-site Gilbert Ray Campground (from \$10), or book a room at the Posada (from \$185), a new five-suite inn from the couple behind Instagram sensation Joshua Tree House. Better yet, book a trip with Backroads, which recently launched Tucson's Blue Sky and Saguaro National Park five-day tour (\$2,699). It showcases the best riding in Rincon, with the option to tackle Mount Lemmon, a bucket-list climb that ascends 5,500 feet over 20.8 miles. —Jen Murphy

## PAKISTAN A New Trek to K2

If the Lifetime Achievement Award of Adventure Travel were a thing, World Expeditions would be a strong contender. The Sydney-based outfit started in 1975 and quickly accrued a litany of world firsts—first commercial cycling trips in China, first commercial descent of Tasmania's Franklin River, first group treks in Mongolia. Along the way, it developed a knack for edgy destinations, among them Pakistan's Karakoram Range, where the highlight was the literally breathtaking ascent to K2's 16,500-foot base camp. Then sectarian violence rocked the country and tourism all but vanished. Now, nine years after pulling out, and with security vastly improved, World Expeditions is back with a 25-day itinerary to base camp (\$6,390). You'll be guided by Australian mountaineer Andrew Lock and camp under peaks like Masherbrum and Trango Tower. Also, in June, the company plans to introduce the 28-day Karakoram Exploratory, a loop up the Nobande Sobande Glacier and the Braldu Glacier, with views of K2's west face (from \$7,990). —Tim Neville

## COLORADO Go with a Legend

Steve "Doom" Fassbinder is known for completing nearly impossible adventures, like biking and rafting 1,000 miles across Tajikistan. The guy has an uncanny ability to suffer—early in his career, he was a repeat 24-Hour mountain-bike-racing world champ. Since leaving the racing scene, Doom has made a name for himself by piecing together creative multi-day routes around the world that require mountain bikes, pack rafts, and the occasional llama. Now his distinctive style of adventure is available stateside with his new outfitter, Four Corners Guides, which takes clients through the deserts, canyons, and rivers of southwest Colorado. The customized tours launch from Fassbinder's 35-acre Scullbender Ranch, which has canvas glamping tents and its own mountain-bike trail system and pump track. One of the trips includes special access to nearby Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park, 125,000 acres of protected lands adjacent to popular Mesa Verde National Park, with a fraction of the visitors. You'll bike-pack for three days through the park's dusty canyons, fording the Mancos River to meet Wolf, a Ute Mountain Ute guide who'll take you up wooden ladders into Native cliff dwellings. The tour finishes with a 40-mile gravel grind back to the ranch, hitting tiny downtown Mancos, where a craft beer at Mancos Brewing Company awaits. Because what's a bike ride without a post-ride beer? From \$895 —G.A.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PETER WATSON/ATLAS AND BOOTS; SPENCER J. HARDING; RICH AND SARA COMBS

The Blue Trail on the Ilulissat ice fjord in western Greenland



## GREENLAND The Great Wide Open

Greenlanders will proudly tell you that their 836,000-square-mile country is not for sale. They do, however, welcome visitors to their wild Arctic frontier, marked by 11,000-foot peaks, polar bears, and Jakobshavn, the planet's fastest-moving glacier. Roughly one-third of Greenland's 55,990 residents live in the western capital of Nuuk, which means there's a lot of empty space to explore. Big Mountain Bike Adventures launched a seven-day, 73-mile summer bikepacking trip on the Ilulissat ice fjord along the island's western edge (\$4,354). For a less strenuous trip, stay at the new Erfalik Lodge, south of the town of Sisimiut (three-day minimum; prices vary with activity). The Scandinavian-style property sits on the bank of the Erfalik River, one of the world's best Arctic char fisheries. Summer is for fishing; fall and winter are for hiking the tundra in search of caribou and the northern lights; and winter is for heli-skiing the surrounding peaks. —Stephanie Pearson

## PUERTO RICO Always Under the Sun

Between 2017's Hurricane Maria and January's earthquakes, parts of Puerto Rico are still recovering. But the capital of San Juan is up and running, and the north coast remains untouched and ready for exploration. Surfers usually head to the western town of Rincón, but the north coast is also packed with adventure. In Vega Baja, the hurricane cleared the vegetation covering once unnavigable mountain cliffs, allowing the outfitter 21 Climb and Tour to open the Roca Norte Outdoor Climbing Gym. In Arecibo, you can rappel 250 feet into Cueva del Arco and tube through 1,000 feet of cave systems along the Tanamá River. Nearby, 1,000-acre Cambalache State Forest has eight miles of hiking trails. The north coast is also home to spectacular beaches, especially Dorado, an emerging surfing hub. Splurge at the recently reopened Dorado Beach Ritz-Carlton Reserve (from \$1,299), or check out the Parador El Buen Café (from \$107), a family-owned property with 50 rustic rooms. —Kathleen Squires

### IN THE BAG THE ADVENTURER Essentials for rugged travelers —Janna Irons

**Uncharted Supply triage kit, \$50**  
Designed with input from more than 100 professional adventurers, this kit makes preparedness super portable. It has everything you need, including bandages, an emergency blanket, duct tape, and essential medications, all weighing in at less than four ounces.

**Pelican 1535 Air travel case, \$310**  
Made to withstand underwater submersion, abuse from baggage handlers, and temperatures from 160 to minus 60, Pelican's new line blends legendary du-

rability with modern conveniences. This carry-on is crafted with the same lightweight material and watertight O-ring gaskets as the brand's classic cases, but with new features like quiet-rolling stainless-steel wheels, mesh organizational pockets, and packing cubes.

**LifeStraw Go water-filter bottle, \$40**  
This 22-ounce, BPA-free bottle allows you to sip from virtually any stream or spigot, with a two-stage filter that removes bacteria, parasites, and microplastics, while reducing chlorine and other chemicals. Unlike iodine tabs or other purifiers, it's built to last through numerous uses: the filter is good for 1,000 gallons or up to five years.

BEN HAGGAR/BIG MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES LTD.



Clockwise: Magashi Camp, Rwanda; Nevada's Ruby Mountains; Otago Central Rail Trail, New Zealand

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MATT BANSAY/RUBY MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER EXPERIENCE; COURTESY OF LACHLAN GARDNER/ADVENTURE SOUTH NZ; COURTESY OF DANA ALLEN/WILDERNESS SAFARIS

## NEVADA Yes, There's Heli Skiing

As the story goes, it was the 1970s, and a ski patroller from Snowbird, Utah, named Joe Royer would drive back and forth along Interstate 80 between Salt Lake City and his hometown of San Francisco. It was hard to miss the dramatic, toothy peaks that spike up in the middle of the Nevada desert just south of that route. The Ruby Mountains are a big range—90 miles long, 10 to 13 miles wide, with ten peaks that top out above 10,000 feet—but they fly totally under the radar. There's no resort, but there's plenty of snow. So in 1977, Royer and two business partners opened Ruby Mountains Helicopter Experience, Nevada's first heli-ski operation. For decades, they stationed guests at a house they rented in the ranching town of Lamoille. But in 2015, they bought more than 1,000 acres on their 200,000-acre guiding tenure and started building a proper base camp. Named the Ruby 360 Lodge, the ten-bedroom homestead opened three years ago and offers winter access to some of the most remote, rugged ski terrain in the lower 48. The helipad is steps from the lodge, with the closest skiing a two-minute flight away. By day, ski off 11,000-foot peaks with narrow chutes, aspen groves, and wide-open bowls. By night, dine on chef-prepared meals and soak in the outdoor hot tub. From \$1,655, including heli-skiing —Megan Michelson

## NEW ZEALAND South Island Gravel Grinding

Among cyclists, the South Island of New Zealand needs no introduction. But sharing the country's narrow-shoulder roads with traffic can get dangerous, so New Zealand resident Phil Wyndham, who oversees a "mad keen" team of bikers at outfitter Adventure South NZ, dove into a simple question: How could they ride to their favorite backcountry locations while limiting exposure to cars? The answer: old gravel roads. "We knew they existed," says Wyndham. "We just needed to link them up with some of our favorite spots to stay or eat and drink." In April, New Zealand's first fully supported, multi-day gravel excursion comes to life in Adventure South's eight-day, inn-to-inn romp from Christchurch to Queenstown. Expect to spin up to 55 miles a day, cruising along rugged inlets, past award-winning vineyards, and into soaring alps. Along the way, you'll granny-gear it up Danseys Pass through the 5,000-foot Kakanui Mountains, soak in hot springs, and tuck along portions of the Alps 2 Ocean Trail, a dedicated bike path from Mount Cook to the Pacific. Day seven includes nearly 6,000 vertical feet of climbing over 45 miles up and down Duffers Saddle, the highest public road in the country. You'll fuel up at classic Kiwi pubs and stay in places like Dunstan House, a 1900s stagecoach stop in Clyde, where you can sample velvety pinot noirs from Clyde Village Vineyard before catching a ferry across Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown. From \$2,575 —T.N.

## RWANDA Beyond Gorillas

Central Africa's mountain gorilla success story—the population increased from 786 to 1,000 over the past decade—will always be a major draw. But there's much more to the region than communing with hairy apes. Rwanda has three national parks, including Akagera, where you can track the Big Five. On the border of Tanzania in northeastern Rwanda, the 433-square-mile park is Central Africa's largest protected wetland and boasts more than 520 species of birds. And years of conservation efforts have restored its populations of elephants, lions, black rhinos, and leopards. Wilderness Safaris' new solar-powered Magashi Camp (from \$470) is an intimate way to experience Akagera; six tents surround a beautiful lodge on the lush shoreline of Lake Rwanyakazinga, which has one of Africa's highest hippo densities. The country's fourth national park, Gishwati Mukura, is due to open to tourists this spring between Volcanoes and Nyungwe National Parks to create a thriving wildlife corridor. On your way out of the country, spend a day or two in the vibrant capital city of Kigali at the art galleries, coffee shops, and bars that now line its streets. Be sure to visit the gut-wrenching Kigali Genocide Memorial, the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the conflict, which happened 26 years ago. —S.P.



Clockwise: São Jorge, the Azores; the drive-through arch in Utah's Dixie National Forest; Lime Kiln Canyon, Utah



## UTAH A New Climbing and Biking Hub

Most visitors consider Saint George nothing more than a pit stop on the way to Zion National Park. But the town is coming into its own as an adventure hot spot. The riding is similar to Moab, but with more variety, from slickrock paths to high-alpine singletrack. There's plenty of flow, too. In Bloomington, five miles southwest of downtown, the Bearclaw Poppy Trail offers easy routes with optional drops, while the Barrel Trail, in Green Valley, has huge features. Drive an hour northeast to the Brian Head Resort, which spent two years turning the mountain into a world-class lift-served playground. When your legs need a rest, there's year-round climbing within an hour of town. Skip the Zion crowds and head 90 minutes southwest to Lime Kiln Canyon, a 350-foot-high cliff offering multi-pitch sport routes. Stay at the new 60-room Advenire downtown (from \$209), or try Gooseberry Lodges (from \$50), 30 miles east. Each of the 12 cabins comes with a mechanic's stand. —G.A.

## THE AZORES A Vast Adventure Playground

It's perplexing that the Azores, an archipelago 900 miles west of Lisbon, aren't better known. The islands are surprisingly accessible—a less than five-hour flight from Boston. And they feel like the love child of Hawaii and New Zealand, with cascading waterfalls, pounding surf, and emerald cliffs. Each island has its own draw—Pico for diving, São Jorge for surfing, Flores for hiking. But São Miguel, the largest island, is a one-stop shop for a multi-adventure trip. Year-round breaks, like the perfect swells at Praia de Santa Bárbara, attract surfers looking to avoid mainland Portugal's crowds. Near the southern town of Vila Franca do Campo, a submerged volcanic islet makes for great snorkeling. Ten minutes northwest is Lagoa do Fogo, a crater lake reached via a 6.8-mile hike. Or check out the views from a technical two-mile bike trail called Cathedral. Don't miss the hot springs of Furnas half an hour east. Stay at the 12-suite Sul Villas and Spas (from \$134), owned by local surfer Rodrigo Herédia. —J.M.

## IN THE BAG THE WEEKENDER Necessities for a quick getaway —J.I.

**Boundary Arris pack, \$290**  
This pack's genius is in the ultralight molded back panels, which have cushy pads and shoulder straps that conform to men and women from five foot four to six foot two. Its 34-liter capacity lets you haul everything you need for a weekend, with organizational features like a removable shoe bag and add-ons including a laptop sleeve and tech pouch.

**Duer Weightless jeans, \$120**  
Weighing less than half what the average pair of jeans do, these slim-cut pants are made from an antimicrobial, moisture-wicking, temperature-controlling fabric.

**Nikon Z 50 camera, \$860**  
This compact mirrorless shooter combines pro-level features (time-lapse, slow-motion, advanced auto mode) with a flip-down touchscreen for selfies. Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity let you post straight to your feed.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DANAAN ANDREW/LAMY STOCK PHOTO; ROBERT BRESSER/KAPTURED TRAVELING; AICACIA YOUNG



A 72 Hour Cabin on Västra Götaland

## SWEDEN **Cabin Heaven**

Swedes have mastered the art of being outside and harnessing the healing properties of nature. Now they have the research to prove the health benefits of their simple, sustainable way of life. In 2017, five stressed-out people, including a French taxi driver, a German police officer, and a British broadcaster, spent 72 hours on a private island in the middle of Lake Animmen, in southwestern Sweden, residing in glass cabins. Built on stilts, large enough for a bed, and surrounded by fresh water, trees, and stars, the stunning cabins had an impressive effect on the visitors. After three days, all five showed a measurable decrease in systolic blood pressure, a drop in heart rate, and an increase in creativity and feelings of well-being. The experiment was such a success that there are now nine 72 Hour Cabins in Dalsland province that anyone can book to swim, fish, paddle a canoe, hike, take a sauna, or do as the Swedes do and just be in nature (from \$697 per person for three days, including meals). —S.P.

### IN THE BAG **THE LONG HAULER**

Tough gear for extended expeditions —J.I.

**Patagonia Black Hole 100L duffel bag, \$350**  
A beloved bag gets greener: the Black Hole is now made with 100 percent recycled polyester ripstop and nylon webbing. It combines the functionality of a suitcase and the durability of a duffel, with structured sides and interior pockets for ample gear hauling, a flat-bottom design that enables it to stand, and sturdy, oversize wheels.

**Unbound Merino T-shirt, \$65**

This lightweight V-neck is a traveler's best friend. It's wrinkle-free and can be worn for weeks without developing a smell. Available in men's and women's styles, it's constructed from Australian merino wool, with durable reinforced seams to help it last through any adventure.

**Osprey Ultralight Stuff pack, \$35**

Weighing a mere 3.2 ounces, and packing down small enough to fit in your palm, this multifunction bag punches well above its weight. Fill its 18 liters of ripstop nylon with snacks and layers for a day hike, a camera and a jacket for running around town, or a bunch of groceries.

COPENHAGEN WILDERNESS/JULIA CATHRINE THIS



Outside GO's 11-day Kenya safari; below, a Watchman Cabin at Blackberry Mountain, Tennessee

### TENNESSEE

## **Your Own Private Park**

Blackberry Farm resort in Walland, Tennessee, set the standard for upscale southern hospitality when the Beall family opened it to overnight guests in the seventies. Now they're taking on adventure with Blackberry Mountain, a 5,200-acre property next to Great Smoky Mountains National Park that opened last February. Half the property is set aside in a conservation easement, protecting eight miles of ridgeline and offering guests hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing, and earning it the reputation of feeling like a private national park. You can stay in a multi-room home, a stone cottage, or one of six Watchman Cabins atop the mountain (from \$1,045). Start off with an early hike to the property's new restaurant in a restored fire tower for a sunrise view of the surrounding forest and an egg bowl of wilted greens and sweet potato hash. Blackberry Mountain's guides will lead you to various hidden treasures on the property, whether it's a flowy piece of singletrack or a sculpture by renowned Danish artist Thomas Dambo nestled off a hiking trail. Set aside a day to pedal 33-mile-long Foothills Parkway, a recently finished two-lane blacktop six miles south of the resort with long-range views into the Smokies. The hotel can arrange for carbon-fiber road bikes. Just be sure you make it back for a cocktail—the Mountain over Manhattan, a rye and rosemary-syrup concoction, uses spices foraged locally. —G.A.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF HOUSE IN THE WILD; COURTESY OF INGALLS PHOTOGRAPHY/BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN



### KENYA

## **The Ultimate Safari**

No one knows how to get you closer to wildlife than our in-house travel experts Sandy and Chip Cunningham at Outside GO. On this 11-day journey, you'll stay at three family-run ranches that have made huge progress in conservation-based tourism. The trip starts in Nairobi National Park, where rhinos, giraffes, and lions wander wide-open grass plains. Then it's west to House in the Wild, a lodge on the edge of the Masai Mara, where guests can explore the Enonkishu Conservancy, a consortium of Masai communities. Next up is Ol Malo, a 5,000-acre sanctuary owned by the Francombe family. Here you'll get to meet neighboring Samburu families and witness the impact the Francombes have had on wildlife conservation. The final stop is Lewa House, a cluster of cottages on the 61,000-acre Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Populations of black rhinos, elephants, and the endangered Grevy's zebra have all made dramatic comebacks here, and in 2018, the conservancy invested nearly \$1.7 million in local education and community projects. From \$9,285 —S.P.

### GO THE DISTANCE

Three long walks to take you into remote, stunning landscapes —G.A.

**Canada's Yukon Territory**  
30 miles, 9 days

Tombstone Territorial Park in northwestern Canada is considered the Patagonia of the north due to its granite spires, massive peaks, and big game. A hike led by Great Canadian Trails will have you spotting grizzlies and caribou while trekking below peaks like 7,000-foot Mount Monolith. You'll carry your own gear, but this isn't a sufferfest. The daily distance is between three and seven miles. From \$1,999

**Australia's Northern Territory**  
40 miles, 7 days

Many of the continent's highlights are in the Northern Territory, an area left unscathed during the recent devastating wildfires. To hit them all, hike the Larapinta Trail along the West MacDonnell Ranges for 140 miles. Do the entire route in 12 days, camping in designated sites, or sign up for a seven-day, 40-mile trek with World Expeditions. From \$2,999

**The Canary Islands**  
40 miles, 8 days

This Spanish-governed archipelago, a 2.5-hour flight southwest from Portugal, is a hiker's playground, known for huge sand dunes, 6,400-foot peaks, and black-sand beaches. Most visitors stick to Tenerife, the largest island, but a new trek with outfitter CanariaWays explores lesser-known La Gomera. The eight-day trip hits the coast, rocky peaks, and banana plantations. Stay in a new village nearly every night, from sleepy mountain outposts to the bustling beach town of San Sebastián. From \$1,904



Clockwise: Volcán de Agua, Guatemala; bedroom and steak at Hotel San Luis Obispo, California; Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, Guyana

## GUATEMALA Coffee, Volcanoes, and Ruins

It's now possible to bike or hike between the 16th-century colonial city of Antigua and the volcano-ringed Lake Atitlán, 50 miles to the west. Old Town Outfitters has been operating cycling tours in Guatemala for more than 20 years and cherry-picked the best backcountry riding for a challenging new three-day itinerary full of steep climbs and technical singletrack (from \$455). The payoff is riding above the Maya ruins of Iximché, unsung views of Lake Atitlán and surrounding volcanoes, and stays at out-of-the-way inns, like an old flour mill turned luxury B&B. Prefer to be on foot? The owners of Trek Guatemala spent two years researching a hiking route between Antigua and Lake Atitlán, meeting with locals to share their vision and ask permission for access. The result is a four-day trek (from \$796) averaging seven to nine miles a day through thick tropical forests, coffee fincas, and Maya villages. Along the way, you'll visit a women's weaving cooperative, learn how to make tortillas, and hunker down at beautiful glamping sites, one of which has front-row views of Fuego, a very active volcano. —S.P.

## GUYANA The Land That Time Forgot

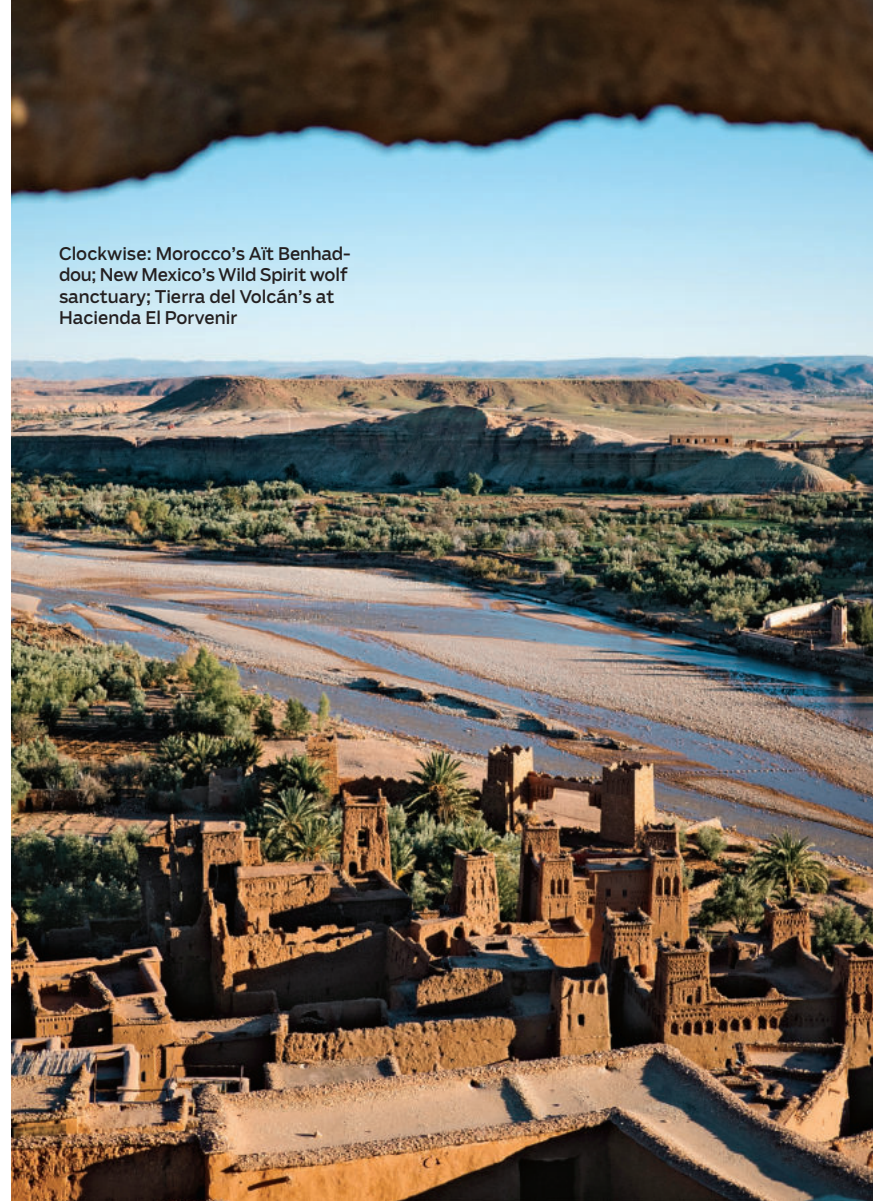
The spotlight is on this English-speaking gem, one of six countries that make up the Guiana Shield, a biodiverse geological formation believed to be crucial for the planet's survival. And Guyana is doing tourism right, deploying green initiatives and small-scale community involvement to preserve its natural resources and cultural heritage. In the south, new lodging has opened to accommodate adventure travelers, including the Wichabai Ranch, a family-run guest house (from \$90) where visitors can go horseback riding with vaqueros (local cowboys), canoe a nearby river, and track wildlife. There are also small, locally owned lodges in the forests and at the edges of rivers. At Rewa (from \$16), where you can stay in a hammock or a rustic cabin, anglers catch and release the world's largest scaled freshwater fish, the arapaima. Be sure to explore the savannas and wetlands of the south-central Rupununi region, home to the Makushi people, who have been here for millennia. With a jungle smorgasbord to nosh, it's a place where jaguars, green anacondas, giant otters, and bird-eating Goliath spiders thrive. —Norie Quintos



## CALIFORNIA A New Preserve on the Central Coast

It's no secret that San Luis Obispo is blessed with mountains and Pacific Ocean access. But things just got even better on California's central coast with the opening of the Pismo Preserve, just off Highway 101. Closed to the public for decades as a private ranch, the 880-acre nature preserve has 11 miles of quality multi-use singletrack that traverses woodlands and coastal ridgelines, allowing the adventure hungry to spread out into new terrain. Stay in downtown SLO at the industrial-style Hotel Cerro (from \$285) or at Hotel San Luis Obispo (from \$300), which has a rooftop bar. —Kathryn Romeyn

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JUSTIN MULLET/STOCKSY; COURTESY OF TANVEER BADAL/HOTEL SAN LUIS OBISPO (2); COURTESY OF DAVID DIGREGORIO



Clockwise: Morocco's Aït Benhadou; New Mexico's Wild Spirit wolf sanctuary; Tierra del Volcán's at Hacienda El Porvenir

## NEW MEXICO The Howling Episodes

Two hours west of Albuquerque, you can spend time with wolves, some of them named by benefactor and New Mexico resident George R.R. Martin after his *Game of Thrones* characters. The Wild Spirit sanctuary is home to 65 wolves, wolf dogs, coyotes, Australian dingoes, and red foxes. Most were rescued from the exotic-animal trade. Visitors can book a feeding tour and watch the wolves get breakfast, and even pet and interact with the animals (prices vary with activity). Stay under wide-open skies at the sanctuary's 15-site campground (\$15), or book its cozy cabin (\$125) or the lodge (\$150). Add in a couple of days to explore the surrounding region. El Morro National Monument is 20 minutes away and home to some 2,000 carvings by Ancestral Puebloans and Spanish and American settlers. Hike the two-mile Headland Trail to the top of a bluff overlooking the Zuni Mountains and the volcanic craters of El Malpais National Monument. At El Malpais, explore one of many lava tubes, like the easy-to-access Junction Cave. Then visit nearby Zuni Pueblo for a tour. —Anna Callaghan

## ECUADOR Back to the Future

Jorge Pérez, the owner of Tierra del Volcán, a sustainable-travel company with lodges in Ecuador's volcano country, has created a new trip for travelers to ponder their evolutionary path. Pérez's Twenty Five Seconds trip unfolds over 15 days from the Andes to the Galápagos Islands, and includes activities designed to spur travelers to think about where they came from and where they're going. The journey begins in the Amazon inside the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, a 2,330-square-mile swath of primordial jungle teeming with ten monkey species, tapirs, and pink dolphins. Here you'll partner with indigenous people to harvest cassavas, fish for food, and communicate only with gestures. From there it's off to the Galápagos to hike, snorkel, and contemplate the miracle of life. You'll visit islands like Santa Cruz and Isabela and either camp on the beach or sleep on a sailboat. Finally, the future arrives in the Andes, at the ranch Hacienda El Porvenir, which translates as "the future," where you'll spend 24 hours venturing no more than 30 feet from a tent, alone, with a journal. From \$4,989 —T.N.

## MOROCCO TO PORTUGAL History on Two Wheels

As an archeologist with a passion for Roman history, Sam Wood excavated his way around the Mediterranean. But that didn't leave him much time to ride his bike. Then, in 2009, the BBC sent the Australian native to ride more than 2,200 miles from Spain to Italy for a documentary following in the footsteps of the conqueror Hannibal. Shortly after, Wood combined his two loves by founding Bike Odyssey, a touring company that explores history by bike. This summer, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, Wood will send a group from Normandy to the Rhine along the path the Allies took to Germany (from \$5,785). It takes weeks to complete the entire route, so Wood offers shorter stages, too. Or sign up now for the 2021 Othello tour, named after Shakespeare's tragic Moorish general. It begins in Marrakesh, Morocco (thought to be Othello's homeland), then heads to Spain and Portugal. You'll gasp for air spinning up Spain's 11,148-foot Pico Veleta, but recover in places like a 15th-century convent in Évora, Portugal, which happens to serve some of the country's best wines. From \$7,378 for 14 nights —T.N.

