



WHERE GO



TO NOW ↗

THIS PAGE: The beach at El Secreto in Belize.
OPPOSITE: Crossing the Golden Jubilee Footbridge toward the South Bank in London.

MARK PARENT/TAILORED LONDON

SKY CANVASSED THE WORLD FOR **15 MUST-HIT DESTINATIONS:** FROM CITIES THAT ARE PULSING WITH ENERGY TO HIDDEN-AWAY GEMS THAT WILL LEAVE YOU RESTED AND RESTORED. THE BUZZIEST STOPS IN **LONDON**, NEW MUSEUMS IN **MEXICO CITY**, RETRO-CHIC HOTELS IN **PALM SPRINGS**, CUTTING-EDGE RESTAURANTS IN **STOCKHOLM**, ECOLOGES IN **BELIZE** AND MORE. LET THE GLOBE-HOPPING BEGIN.

Edited by SARAH ELBERT



GPS

GALÁPAGOS, ECUADOR

5 Mention the Galápagos, and those who haven't been proclaim the archipelago high on their bucket list. Those who have speak of the islands' unadulterated natural beauty and once-in-a-lifetime experiences—snorkeling with whitetip reef sharks, spotting blue-footed boobies and coming nose to whiskers

with sea lions. But it wasn't always so. In fact, Ecuador only declared the islands a national park in 1959, and it took another 15 years for the surrounding waters to become a marine reserve. By then, 18th-century whalers, 20th-century tourists and a growing human population had wreaked havoc on the archipelago's delicate ecosystem. ¶ In 2007, UNESCO added the Galápagos to its "In Danger" list, where it re-

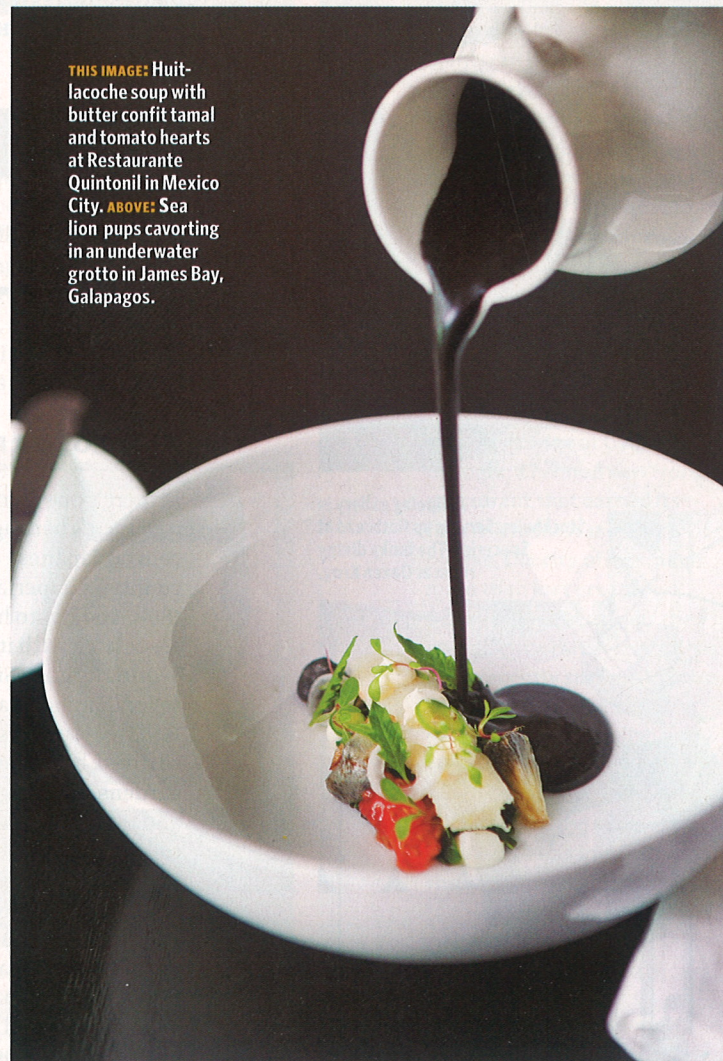
mained for three years. Visit today and your time there is tightly regulated, but it's an experience worth having thanks to naturalists who impart knowledge about the islands' history, its species and conservation efforts. Go Now: Small-ship cruise companies such as Lindblad Expeditions and International Expeditions offer daily hikes, kayaking, snorkeling and all meals.

—CELESTE MOURE

6 MEXICO CITY

MEX

Mexico City's arts scene got a big boost last fall with the opening of the Museo Jumex, Latin America's largest private contemporary art museum, where works by significant Mexican and international artists come together in a striking complex designed by British architect David Chipperfield. The museum, in the city's posh Polanco district, blends into an already rich museum landscape that includes the Museo de Arte Moderno, the contemporary Museo Tamayo (itself just reopened) and the vast Museo Nacional de Antropología, all nearby. Noteworthy restaurants, bars and shops are popping up in the area, too, particularly in Polanco and the more bohemian Condesa and Roma neighborhoods. Among them: highly rated Quintonil, where the fresh, modern Mexican fare looks as amazing as it tastes, and the flagship store for DFC, a local label that enlists top Mexican artisans to produce design objects with an edge. Even the city's Centro Histórico is ushering in the latest—most recently in the form of Downtown México, a 17th-century palace-turned-hotel with a buzzing rooftop bar. It feels right at home in the oldest part of the city, where it's clear after a visit to the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the exquisite art deco opera house two blocks away, that here, chic is nothing new. —SHAWN GILLIAM



THIS IMAGE: Huitlacoche soup with butter confit tamal and tomato hearts at Restaurante Quintonil in Mexico City. **ABOVE:** Sea lion pups cavorting in an underwater grotto in James Bay, Galapagos.

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PORTLAND, OREGON

PDX

That Portland is a foodie boomtown isn't news, but the city isn't known for resting on its laurels. Stacking up are speakeasy-style restaurants within restaurants such as the new Lang Baan, a 20-seat jewel in the back of Paadee, serving traditional Thai food, while Roe, hemmed inside Block + Tackle, presents four- and seven-course seafood-heavy samplers. Reservations are snatched in minutes at



Salt and Straw

Holdfast, the 10-seat supper club of chef Will Preisch, who zings unusual and artful small plates inside KitchenCru. The caffeine-crazed town loves dunk-worthy Blue Star Donuts, and Salt and Straw's summer cocktail ice cream series transforms bar favorites into scoops. Dessert-first crusaders belly up at pastry chef Kristen Murray's new "pastry luncheonette" Maurice in the sizzling hot West End neighborhood, as other top toques expand their food fiefdoms—among them James Beard award-winning baker Ken Forkish, whose Trifecta is touted as America's first "bakery tavern."

—KIMBERLEY LOVATO

PSP

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

For a town happily marooned in the 1950s, Palm Springs always manages to have something new cooking. Of course, "new" often means reincarnated in this retro-flavored desert resort town. The stylishly rustic Sparrows Hotel opened in October after half a century as the merely rustic El Rancho Lodge. With its handmade furniture and rusted steel roof, the boutique, ranch-style spot offers a more intimate complement to the nearby Ace Hotel. Also resuscitated to chic effect: the 29-room Skylark Hotel, vintage 1955, where the likes of Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe would pop by. Even when the city does brand new, it does so in shades of high modern. This spring, atop a 650-foot bluff, the Ritz Carlton opens its Rancho Mirage, a dapper, blend-into-the-palms property with a sweeping view of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. Of course, new hotels aren't the only doors opening here. Bar, which opened in 2012 on North Palm Canyon Drive, is cozy and hopping—and the best place in town to tuck into seared ahi over a lemony "Penicillin" cocktail. —CHRIS COLIN

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ABOVE: Lounging at the Ace Hotel in Palm Springs. **BELOW:** The pool area at the Sparrows Hotel.



SBA

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

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Situated along the Pacific and hugged by the Santa Ynez Mountains,

Santa Barbara is the quintessential California coast town, with a sunny and charming disposition that's infectious. But a crop of new restaurants and hotels, the city's first distillery and a soon-to-open public market are adding fresh new



buzz. Make a beeline for the Funk Zone, an emerging arts district near downtown where artisanal restaurants, winetasting rooms, galleries and a high-end guitar shop, The Guitar Bar, happily coexist. Snag a table at The Lark, opened last year, and dig into Brussel sprouts with medjool dates and mussels with charred pineapple and chili. Finish with rieslings from Austria or pinot noirs from the nearby Santa Maria Valley at Les Marchands Wine Bar and Merchant, a stunning wine bar around the corner. Also nearby, Cutler's Artisan Spirits is a nine-month-old distillery right in the heart of downtown, where you can sample bourbon and vodka. The distillery's spirits are used in cocktails at El Encanto, a historic property reopened by Orient-Express last year after a seven-year restoration. Perched on a hilltop, the 92-room hotel retained several original craftsman-style bungalows that are now outfitted with fireplaces, private patios and clawfoot tubs.

—TANVI CHHEDA



BELIZE

BZE

You've heard about Belize for years. Maybe your friends honeymooned there and praised it as a smaller, quieter Mexico (with better snorkeling and no bars with alcoholic frog mascots). Or perhaps you've heard about the growing number of Americans retiring to its affordable, seaside condos. But why Belize now? Because the tiny but beautiful Central American country finally has the hospitality industry it deserves. In its defense, it got a late start. Belize gained independence from Britain in 1981 and began adding infrastructure to support tourism—paved roads, airports, a few no-frills beach hotels. And then came Francis Ford Coppola, who used his mob money, so to speak, to open the Blancaneaux Lodge in the Maya Mountains in 1993 and Turtle Inn on the Caribbean Sea in 2001. Both set the standard for high-end resorts in Belize and paved the way for the recent wave of luxe hotel openings, including organic farm/ecolodge Belcampo Belize in the southern Punta Gorda region and the seaside villas of El Secreto on the Ambergris Caye. Not that you should ignore the classics: Blancaneaux is a backcountry paradise with spacious cabañas and plenty for the adventurous, including hikes to hidden waterfalls and unspoiled Mayan ruins and the occasional jaguar sighting. Turtle Inn grafts that five-star formula onto a classic beach setting. Time to update your bucket list. —CHRIS CLAYTON

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CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Biking along the Santa Barbara Pier; Lamanai, a Mesoamerican archaeological site in Belize; El Secreto resort; Cork & Cow in Franklin, Tennessee; The pedestrian Calgary Peace Bridge.

YYC

CALGARY, CANADA

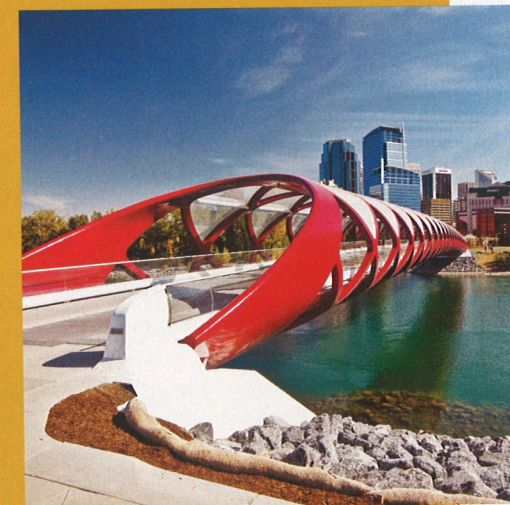
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With Banff National Park about an hour away and the Calgary Stampede attended by more than 1 million people each summer, this city's no stranger to travelers. But a booming urban scene, fueled by the oil and gas industry, means that Calgary, home to Canada's strongest economy and a young population (the median age is 36), has more to experience than ever.

Cropping up amid construction cranes (more than 20 office towers and condo high-rises are underway) are exciting new eateries such as Charcut, where chef John Jackson and *Top Chef Canada* runner-up Connie DeSousa get rave reviews for their charbroiled dishes, and National, where more than 80 brews (nearly 70 on tap) are served in buzzing beer halls. Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods such as Kensington Village are walkable, but light rail and a car-share fleet of

150-plus Smart Cars make it easy to catch a ride. And yet it's still a city at one with nature. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's two-year-old pedestrian Peace Bridge spans the Bow River and wetlands of Prince's Island Park just north of downtown. And Calgary's tallest building, Norman Foster's The Bow, is 58 stories high and overlooks its namesake river, one of the world's top waterways for trout fishing.

—SHAWN GILLIAM



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FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

BNA

Franklin, with its boho-meets-Southern-chic vibe, seems to have a magnetic pull on the celebrities who pick, strum and sing their way to fame in Nashville—a range of stars who have made the city their Tennessee home base. Located in the rolling, creek-cut hills less than 30 miles south of Music City, Franklin has a magical combination of shopping, dining and history essential for turning a mere location into a buzzy destination.

¶ Main Street, with its architectural smorgasbord of buildings ranging from antebellum to art moderne, is the logical first stop in town. Goods behind the historic storefronts range from indie-label fashion (Haven stocks the likes of Current Elliot and Elizabeth and James) to au courant home décor (The Iron Gate captures the white-hot timeworn elegance aesthetic and stationery with a generous dose of gentility (Rock Paper Scissors). A little south of downtown, dive into antiques and architectural salvage at Winchester Antique Mall and City Farmhouse. ¶ This being the South, food is critically important to getting the full Franklin experience. Both upscale and down-home dining traditions are well represented, and you can just as easily get a steak with foie gras butter (at Cork & Cow) as you can turnip greens or meat-and-three (Dotson's and Bishop's, respectively). —GINA CZUPKA

