

# TravelBITS



## ICE IS NICE

 Northern Sweden's ICEHOTEL will be the world's first ice hotel to remain open year-round. The hotel will utilize solar power to cool the bar, art gallery and guest suites, allowing them to remain open 365 days a year; icehotel.com.

SOURCE: CNN

## POPULAR POLES

 With global temperatures on the rise, experts expect an increase in adventurous explorers with a polar destination.

SOURCE: FORBES

## LISTEN UP

 Traveling is great but sometimes long plane rides in tiny seats can be brutal. Never fear though, podcasts are a great way to pass the time and learn. A few to try: the Extra Pack of Peanuts "Travel Podcast," Zero to Travel's podcast, and *National Geographic Traveler's* "Walks of a Lifetime." Put on your headphones, tune out the baby in aisle 18 and download a podcast.

SOURCE: THE HUFFINGTON POST



## SKI-THROUGH

 The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce recently installed its first ski-through ATM as part of its 5-year sponsorship of the Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort.

SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER



## Pet Pairings

TrustedHousesitters pairs homeowners looking for animal care with travelers who will take care of pets in exchange for a free stay. If expensive accommodations and lack of puppies are holding you back from your globetrotting potential, problem solved; trustedhousesitters.com.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE

## FASHION FUEL

 Japan Airlines is working with Japan Environmental Planning to turn old clothing into airplane bio-fuel; jeplan.co.jp.

SOURCE: SPRINGWISE

## MyTSA

 Does the fear of missing a flight keep you up at night? If so, the MyTSA app is for you. MyTSA calculates wait times for clearing security in domestic airports and wait times across the country.

SOURCE: FORBES

## SRI LANKA SAFARI

 If conservation, sustainable travel and traveling to beautiful places sounds like an unbeatable trifecta, then the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through Natural Habitat Adventures' Sri Lanka Wildlife Safari is for you. As one of 17 new trips the WWF is offering in 2017, Sri Lanka has much to discover. From herds of Asian elephants to swimming with sea turtles, Sri Lanka has it all; nathab.com.

SOURCE: WORLD WILDLIFE FUND



## SILLO SLEEPING

 A grain silo in Cape Town, South Africa is being transformed into an ultra-modern hotel along Cape Town's waterfront. The bottom six floors will house the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa and the building's rooftop will have a glass pool and bar with views of Table Mountain. The Silo Hotel opened March 1, 2017 with rates starting at \$870; theroyalportfolio.com.

SOURCE: CNN

## Efficient Expo



A futuristic city is being built in Astana, Kazakhstan to host the 2017 World Expo. The “Future of Energy” will be the theme of this year’s Expo and renewable forms of energy are being incorporated into the site. Constructed over 429 acres and including 29 buildings, the new city will be a sustainable sight to behold; [expomuseum.com](http://expomuseum.com).

SOURCE: BUSINESS INSIDER

## 2017’S BEST FOOD AND WINE FESTIVALS IN THE U.S.



From breakfast bites to gourmet wines, these festivals are sure to satisfy every palate.

- San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival; November 13 – 19
- Taste of Chicago; July 5 – 9
- Epcot International Food and Wine Festival; August 31 – November 13
- Hawaii Food & Wine Festival; October 20 – November 5
- Los Angeles Food & Wine Festival; August 25 – 28
- New Orleans Wine & Food Experience; May 25 – 29
- Taste of Vail; April 5 – 9
- NYC Wine & Food Festival; October 12 – 15
- Austin Food & Wine Festival; April 28 – 30
- Aspen Food & Wine Classic; June 16 – 18

SOURCE: TRAVEL CHANNEL



### DUOLINGO

Communication is key to any great relationship, and probably any great trip. The Duolingo app has been around for awhile but recently launched chatbots in Spanish, French and German to help native English-speakers learn a new language. The chatbots replicate common situations travelers might find themselves in; [duolingo.com](http://duolingo.com).

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE

### HIGH QUALITY HISTORY



The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa in Riverside, CA was voted Best Historic Hotel of America by *USA Today’s* 10 Best Reader’s Choice Awards. Built in 1876, the AAA Four Diamond hotel offers 238 guest rooms and amazing architecture; [missioninn.com](http://missioninn.com).

SOURCE: USA TODAY

### TRAINS TO TANGIER



Testing has begun on the high-speed, double-decker train cars that will comprise Africa’s first high-speed train. The new trains will travel from Casablanca to Tangier at speeds of 200 mph, cutting the current journey time by more than half.

SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER



### AIRPORT ATTRACTIONS



Airports are becoming more interesting and layovers are no longer the humdrum limbo they once were. Hong Kong Airport houses Asia’s largest 4-D projection screen, Singapore Changi International Airport is home to 47 species of butterflies in an enclosed tropical oasis and Charles de Gaulle Airport has free Sony PlayStation® kiosks. So skip the expensive direct flight and enjoy a layover or two.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



### FERRARI LAND



PortAventura, Spain will open its very own Ferrari themed park this year. Though the 19-acre park will be significantly smaller than the original Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi, it will still feature five rides: a launched roller coaster, a pair of drop towers, a miniature motorway, a race car simulator and a whip ride; [portaventuraworld.com](http://portaventuraworld.com).

SOURCE: LOS ANGELES TIMES

### SPRING FOR IT



The Grand Canyon was voted #1 in Best Family Vacations and #1 for Best Spring Vacation by *U.S. News & World Report* travel rankings. Force your kids to hang out with you and enjoy fantastic views, river rafting and adventure.

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT