


# TravelBITS




## GLAMPING GALORE

 Epic Retreats is celebrating its Year of Legends in 2017 by having a new boutique hotel pop-up at three secret locations across Wales where guests can glamp in one of eight bespoke cabins; [epicretreats.wales/en](http://epicretreats.wales/en).

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET


## CLEVELAND COCKTAILS

 Ohio's Metropolitan at the 9, an Autograph Collection hotel, recently turned its underground space, The Vault, into a classy cocktail spot. Hidden in the maze of vaults and corridors that once kept the wealth of the Cleveland Trust Co., handcrafted drinks and a small plates menu with items like charcuterie and oysters are served in the classy lounge with vintage accents.

SOURCE: USA TODAY



## VENT HAVEN VENTRILOQUISTS

 In Fort Mitchell, KY, the Vent Haven Museum – the only one of its kind – displays more than 800 dummies, photos, playbills, and historical books on ventriloquism. The museum also hosts the annual ConVENTion, a ventriloquist meeting that attracts professionals and enthusiasts from around the world; [venthaven.org](http://venthaven.org).

SOURCE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC


## In-room Spin Class



You'll never have to miss a workout again thanks to Westin Hotels & Resorts' new partnership with Peloton. The hotel chain has added Peloton interactive exercise bikes to a number of their guest rooms and fitness studios.


SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER

## SISTER SHIPS

 Viking Cruise Line has two new ships launching this year. The sister ships, Viking Sky and Viking Sun, will focus on destinations with longer days and more overnights in key ports; [vikingcruises.com](http://vikingcruises.com).


SOURCE: USA TODAY

## SUMMER IN THE CITY

 America's best city for summer travel, according to *Travel + Leisure*, is Portland, OR. Of note were its top-ranked farmers markets, great microbrews and delicious wholesome cuisine – and its bicycling and hiking through beautiful landscapes, too.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE


## URBAN EXPLORATION

 Walking a city has never been so easy. Sidekix, a city exploration app, offers downloadable city guides. The GPS-technology allows users to navigate within the maps and find recommended places nearby; [getsidekix.com](http://getsidekix.com).

SOURCE: FORBES




## SUMMER OF LOVE

 The 50th anniversary celebration of the Summer of Love actually began in the winter of last year but will continue through this summer. Events will include a 50th anniversary edition of the Monterey International Pop Festival and the de Young Museum's new exhibit, "The Summer of Love Experience: Art, Fashion, and Rock & Roll;" [summerof.love](http://summerof.love).

SOURCE: CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## BEACH'S BEST

 Nihiwatu, on Indonesia's remote Sumba Island, was voted the World's Best Beach Hotel this year by *Travel + Leisure* readers.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE


## Facial Recognition




British Airways has introduced a new passport-free process at several boarding gates in Heathrow with plans to continue expanding the service to additional gates. When passengers go through security, boarding passes and passports will be checked and each person's features scanned by biometric devices. That scan will then be repeated at the gate, allowing passengers to board without having to recheck all their documents. SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER




### YUGGLER

 The app Yugler helps travelers discover all the kid-friendly activities near them. The app offers photos and filters to find things age- and interest-appropriate for your children. Currently only available for iOS 7.0 or later; [yugler.com](http://yugler.com). SOURCE: LA TIMES


### TAKE IT EASY

 Hours to kill during a layover? Peace and quiet, some privacy, and maybe even a shower lay in store for you if you utilize LoungeBuddy to gain access to over 170 airport lounges worldwide on a pay-by-use basis; [loungebuddy.com](http://loungebuddy.com). SOURCE: WIRED.COM


### TUNNEL THROUGH

 Norway plans to build the world's first tunnel for ships. A 5,610-foot passageway burrowed through a piece of rocky peninsula will allow vessels to avoid a treacherous part of sea. It will be 118 feet wide and 162 feet tall and is estimated to cost at least \$314 million. It is expected to open in 2023. SOURCE: USA TODAY

### DOG DAYS


 Dogs get their day in Indianapolis this spring at The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art's "Dogs: Faithful and True" exhibit which highlights these heroes, workers and companions in Native American cultures and the West. The exhibit includes films, paintings, sculpture, weavings, photographs and artifacts. There also will be opportunities for dogs and their owners to participate in outdoor programming; [eiteljorg.org](http://eiteljorg.org). SOURCE: USA TODAY

### OLDEST CITY ON A DIME


 *MONEY's 2017 Best in Travel* identifies the destinations and services that deliver the most value for your dollar. St. Augustine, FL, the oldest city in the U.S., won the top spot for affordability, average cost for a week for two: \$2,507. Spanish Colonial architecture, boutiques, the Lightner Museum and reasonably-priced lodging from seaside condos to historic inns and B&Bs await you there. SOURCE: TIME.COM



### SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING

 Sweden-based ReTuna is encouraging customers to rethink how they shop with the world's first shopping mall offering exclusively used items. Located in the city of Eskilstuna just outside of Stockholm and operating since August 2015, ReTuna is open seven days a week and holds monthly Crazy Monday sales; [retuna.se](http://retuna.se). SOURCE: SPRINGWISE NEWSLETTER

### 15 BEST FAMILY SUMMER VACATION DESTINATIONS

 Give your kids a summer adventure to remember. According to *U.S. News & World Report Travel*, these are the best spots to take the whole family.

1. Ocean City, MD
2. Puerto Rico
3. Whistler, Canada
4. Niagra Falls, NY
5. Myrtle Beach, VA
6. New York City, NY
7. Bahamas
8. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
9. Vail, CO
10. Virginia Beach, VA
11. Hamburg, Germany
12. Boston, MA
13. Portland, OR
14. Jackson Hole, WY
15. U.S. Virgin Islands

SOURCE: USNEWS.COM