

# TravelBITS



## WARM UP

 Valrhona announced its third annual Hot Chocolate Festival in New York City. The event will take place between January 20 and February 4, 2019. Ten bakeries and chocolatiers around the city will participate, offering artisanal hot chocolate; valrhona-chocolate.com. SOURCE: TRAVEL CHANNEL

## NEW DIGS

 Nine new ski hotels are opening this winter with a wide array of options for every traveler.

- La Folie Douce, Chamonix, France
- Le Massif, Courmayeur, Italy
- Hotel Daria-I Nor, Alpe d'Hues, France
- The People Hostel, Les Duex Alpes, France
- Experimental Chalet, Verbier, Switzerland
- Alparena, La Rosiere, France
- Les Arcs Panorama, Les Arcs 1600, France
- Camp Zero, Champoluc, Italy
- Caldera House, Jackson Hole, U.S.A

SOURCE: THE TELEGRAPH



## SAY HELLO

 Postagram turns your phone or Instagram photos into postcards. Upload your image, type a message, and place your order. The app prints and mails your postcard anywhere in the U.S. for only \$1 (postage not included). Free on iOS/Android; sincerely.com.

SOURCE: TIME

## Sunken Sites



The Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail at Lake Tahoe, CA is now open to scuba divers and snorkelers. It is the first time an underwater maritime cultural heritage trail in a California State Park has been opened to the public. Ranging from a depth of 10 ft-60 ft, four sites have underwater interpretative panels.

SOURCE: CNN

## PREHISTORIC PARK

 The Saranac Lake Winter Carnival will be held from February 1-10, 2019. Every year at the annual festival an ice palace is built and the theme for 2019 is Prehistoric Park. Other activities include a fun run, downhill ski race, scavenger hunt and much more for a full 10 days of celebration; saranaclakewintercarnival.com.

SOURCE: BEDANDBREAKFAST.COM

## CANINE CAFÉ

 True Love Café at Neverland in Bangkok, Thailand is the one and only Siberian Husky Café. For about \$15 guests can play with more than twenty Huskies for an hour and then enjoy some coffee and food in the restaurant.

SOURCE: TRIPADVISOR



## GET MOVING

 Southwest Turkey is now home to a new network of hiking and cycling trails. The ECO Trails have a coastal route, a middle path and a mountain ride. The paths were designed to preserve the local landscape and promote eco tourism. A trail guidebook and app are in the works; theeco-trails.com.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET

## Under, the Sea Eatery



The first underwater restaurant in Europe and largest underwater restaurant in the world is now accepting reservations. Slated to open in April 2019, Under is located along the coast of Båly, Norway. Built on a barge and submerged 16' below the surface, the building will double as a marine research center in the off-hours and its exterior will eventually become an artificial mussel reef.

SOURCE: FOOD & WINE

### SIT AND SQUAT

 The Sit and Squat app pinpoints the closest public restrooms and provides user-generated cleanliness scores. You'll never have to spring for an unnecessary cup of coffee just to use the facilities. Sponsored by Charmin and available free on iOS and Android; charmin.com.

SOURCE: TIME



### TRAINS OF THE FUTURE

 The Brightline, a new inter-city train service linking Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, features hyper-modern train stations, trains that run on clean biodiesel fuel, huge seats, fast Wi-Fi and even a cold towel on arrival. Plans to expand the service to Orlando by 2021 are already in the works and the company recently announced it will create a service connecting Southern California to Las Vegas by 2022; gobrightline.com.

SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER

### USER CONTENT

 Uniworld Boutique River Cruise collection adds user-generated content to their website, allowing potential guests to view the ships and trips from other travelers' point of view.

SOURCE: UNIWORLD.COM



### OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

 This year UNESCO added 19 locations to its extensive list of World Heritage Sites. Among those that stand out, the Ancient City of Qalhat in Oman for its archaeological remains, Columbia's Chiribiquete National Park and the Thimlich Ohingwa Archaeological Site in Kenya.

SOURCE: CNN

### COASTAL COOL

 Looking for a winter getaway? Cambodia's got it. Winter temperatures are warm but not oppressive and Cambodia's beautiful beaches and paddy fields will make you forget your winter blues. SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER

### WINTER'S BEST

 Quebec City, Canada is a winter wonderland. Within the walled city, horse-drawn carriages, low-lit wine bars and ice-skating await. Ranked one of the best places to travel by *Travel + Leisure*. SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



### SKY'S THE LIMIT

 The Australian Alps are home to a new art installation, created by James Turrell. The Skyspace Lech, a piece of walk-in art that changes with a moving dome and natural light, is located in the region of Vorarlberg in western Austria. Open all year long and easy to reach from Lech thanks to the cableways that connect the village to the ski station of Oberlech, it is not a site to miss. No more than 30 guests can stay inside the Skyspace at a time and entry is free of charge; skyspace-lech.com. SOURCE: LONELY PLANET

### WEST AFRICA WONDERS

 Peregrine is now offering a new eight-day adventure. Sailing from Dakar, Senegal up the Gambia River, passengers on the small ship can spot crocodiles and manatee, explore Kunta Kinteh, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, spend time at a Gambian family compound and visit the Wassu stone circles. \$2,310 per person, double occupancy; lat.ms/westafricacruise.

SOURCE: LA TIMES

### WONDERFUL WORDS

 The Duo Lingo app has added Hawaiian and Navajo to the list of languages you can learn; duolingo.com. SOURCE: LONELY PLANET