

TravelBITS



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



The most anticipated restaurant openings in 2019 have range – from simply prepared vegetables to sourdough pancakes, there is a lot to look forward to.

- Antico, Los Angeles, CA
- Birdie G's, Santa Monica, CA
- Fox & the Knife, Boston, MA
- Gianna, New Orleans, LA
- Homewood, Dallas, TX
- Kumico, Chicago, IL
- Mama Chang, Fairfax, VA
- Pancake Social, Atlanta, GA

SOURCE: FOOD & WINE

MINIMAL, MODERN, MEXICAN



Slated to open in March 2019, Hotel Amapa in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico is a modernist dream. With Pacific views and décor celebrating the local crafting heritage, this neighborhood hotel is sure to please; hotel amapa.com.

SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER



WISE WANDERLUST



The best budget travel destinations for 2019 according to *Reader's Digest* include Fez, Morocco with its UNESCO-listed Medina, the largest pedestrian-only urban area in the world, and Odessa, Ukraine where tickets to the Odessa Opera House start at a mere \$2.

SOURCE: READER'S DIGEST

Ocean Bound



River cruise line Scenic will soon be sailing the seas with the debut of their first ocean-going vessel. The Scenic Eclipse, a 228-passenger expedition ship, will offer passengers a one-to-one staff-to-guest ratio, four swimming pools, large spa and exciting excursions. Thanks to a fleet of Zodiacs, two helicopters and even a six-person submarine that can reach depths close to 1,000 feet, passengers will be awarded a unique perspective; scenicusa.com.

SOURCE: CNN TRAVEL

GO TEAM



The Mascot Hall of Fame in Whiting, IN will have its grand opening on April 5. Visitors to the museum can learn the history of mascots and view mascot memorabilia from around the world. Interactive activities include a virtual t-shirt cannon and a design-your-own mascot option; mascothalloffame.com.

SOURCE: SMITHSONIANMAG.COM

WIDE AWAKE



Jet lag can be ruinous, but the Timeshifter app can help. The app allows you to input information about your sleep cycles and upcoming travel plans and provides a personalized plan tailored to help you adjust. Available for free on iOS and Google Play; timeshifter.com.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



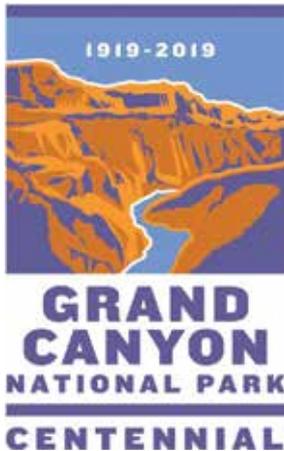
GO WITH GRANDMA



Are your children bothersome? Do your parents irk you? Solve both of these problems by sending them off together. "Skip generation" trips, in which grandparents travel with grandkids and leave the middle generation at home, are already being planned by about 15% of Baby Boomers planning vacations in 2019 according to AARP.

SOURCE: AARP

100 Years



Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate its 100th year with a star party from June 22-29. Astronomers will set up high-powered telescopes on the North and South rims and show you planets, star clusters, galaxies and more in some of the clearest night skies in the country. Of course, you can revel in the canyon's daytime splendor too.

SOURCE: LA TIMES

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

 The Langham London has become the first hotel in Europe to introduce a "rapid composting" system that can turn 2,400 lbs of leftovers into water every 24 hours. The Armani hotel in Dubai is trying to cut kitchen waste by 80%, with the scraps it does generate being turned into soil nutrients while the new Salt of Palmar hotel in Mauritius is launching a hydroponic fruit and vegetable farm to help it be more self-sufficient. Hopefully, initiatives like these will soon become standard.

SOURCE: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER



BEST OF THE BEST

 Jasper National Park, the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies, took the top spot for Best Places to Visit in Canada according to *U.S. News Best Vacation Rankings*. Whether you ride the Jasper SkyTram, raft down the Athabasca River or hike through the Maligne Canyon, the majestic scenery is sure to impress.

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

SEA OF POSSIBILITIES

 The supermarket chain Carrefour has opened a floating grocery in Dubai. The aqua-pod stocks more than 300 items, including hot and cold foods, soft drinks and beauty products. The pod can take orders from small boats and jet-skis at its "drive-thru" window and is even equipped with its own tender that can deliver orders to larger ships or beachgoers that order a snack. All orders are filled with biodegradable straws and bags.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET

REST AND RECHARGE

 With wellness travel on the rise destination spas are upping their game. *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards survey ranked Schloss Elmau Luxury Spa & Cultural Hideaway in Elmau, Germany the best international destination spa. Situated in the Bavarian Alps the retreat has four spas, six restaurants, a concert hall and outdoor pool.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE

TEMPLES AND TEA LEAVES

 DuVine Cycling + Adventure Co. is expanding their offerings with The Japan Bike Tour, their first Asian departure. On this seven-day journey, riders go through Japanese villages, past temples, tea fields and bamboo groves. Traveling to Nara, Kyoto and Mount Koya, riders stay in traditional ryokans, meditate with Buddhist monks, and can look forward to sake tastings. The roads are car-free and shared only by pilgrims making their way on foot to a temple or shrine, \$8,795 per person; dumine.com.

SOURCE: FORBES

NEW BEACHES

 Langkawi, a 99-island archipelago in Malaysia, may be the next hot spot for beach-lovers. While much of the main island still feels vast and ageless, world-class resorts are readily available and last years' renovation of the Langkawi International Airport has tripled its capacity, making it more accessible than ever.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE

SQUAD GOALS

 Traveling with friends is great. Planning for it is not. Try kayak's Trip Huddle, an online, group travel planning tool. The tool invites each person using an email notification and allows everyone to suggest date ranges, as well as vote on and rate destinations and accommodations. The tool tallies the votes and provides estimated prices for the trip all without annoying group texts or email chains; kayak.com/mvp.

SOURCE: DIGITALTRENDS.COM



THE CITY OF WINE

 If France wasn't already associated with wine, it now has a theme park to prove it: La Cité du Vin, France. The Bordeaux museum/theme park hybrid celebrates wine culture and offers attractions such as interactive boat rides and wine tastings.

SOURCE: TRAVEL CHANNEL

LISTEN UP

 With podcast listenership increasing it is no surprise that there is ample content on travel. Some of the highest-ranking travel podcasts are *Women Who Travel* by *Condé Nast Traveler*, *e-travels* with E. Trules by Eric Trules, *Andy Steves Travel Podcast* and *Travel Today* with Peter Greenberg, to name just a few. There is something for everyone.

SOURCE: STITCHER.COM