

TravelBITS

Trending Now



According to Booking.com, 54% of global travelers want to play a part in reducing over-tourism and 51% are interested in swapping famous destinations for lesser-known local locations.

SOURCE: FORBES

EPCOT UPGRADES

 Epcot is undergoing an overhaul prior to Walt Disney World's 50th Anniversary in 2021, which includes a full reinvention of most of the park, including the Future World and World Showcase areas. From regional BBQ sandwiches and French delicacies to a beloved Pixar film attraction and a never-before-seen nighttime show, there's much to expect from Epcot in 2020.

SOURCE: FOOD & WINE

DEEP SLEEP

 Hotels and resorts are integrating some truly unique amenities to help travelers get a decent night's sleep. Canyon Ranch Wellness Resort in Tucson, AZ, offers hypnosis and bio-feedback to help you nod off. In New York, The Benjamin hotel supplies a curated pillow menu and lullaby music library, while Equinox Hotel provides melatonin smoothies and soothing IV drips.

SOURCE: AMERICANWAY.COM

IT'S NOT HOLLAND

 Now you never have to wonder if you're booking a trip to Holland or the Netherlands, because the country has settled on an official name. The Netherlands has officially decided it will only be called the Netherlands.

SOURCE: TRAVEL + LEISURE



SUN SAFETY

 The Pacific island nation of Palau has banned sunscreens that are toxic to coral reefs. Hawaii recently became the first U.S. state to pass a similar bill banning sunscreens with substances that harm corals.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET



ON TIME

 The world's most punctual airports and airlines have been released. Travel data analyst Cirium released its annual On-Time Performance Review naming Russian flag carrier Aeroflot the world's most on-time global mainline airline and Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport the world's most punctual airport.

SOURCE: CNN

PACK PERFECT

 The app Packpoint curates a customized list of what you'll need to pack for your trip based on the destination, travel dates, length of stay, and the activities you're interested in doing while there.

SOURCE: PACKPNT.COM



BUTTER 'EM UP

 Visit any of Colorado's 400 craft breweries and you're sure to overhear someone ordering a flight, a small sampling of five or six beers, but what if you don't like beer? At Bella La Crema, the world's first butter bar, you can order a flight of butter instead. Sit down with a warm, crusty baguette and four generous samples of compound butter, all flavored with herbs and spices ranging from tarragon to turmeric.

SOURCE: FOOD & WINE

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Babies Beware



Japan Airlines has created a map to help you avoid babies on your flight. The airline is currently making headlines for the new seat map on its booking website, which displays a “child icon” above the seats where young children will be during the flight – useful knowledge for passengers hoping to avoid screams and chair kicks.

SOURCE: CNTRAVELER.COM



HAIL A CAB

While taxis may seem like a vestige of the past, that just might be because you’re not using Curb, the Taxi App. Curb is the number one taxi app in the U.S. that connects you to taxis in New York, Boston, Miami, and Las Vegas, among many other cities. Extra bonus: no surge pricing.

SOURCE: MOBILEAPP.GOCURB.COM

SET SAIL

The cruise operator Hurtigruten will unveil the 530-passenger MA Fridtjof Nansen in March. It is the sister-ship to the just-launched MS Roald Amundsen and both vessels feature science centers, citizen science projects and both are hybrid electric-powered with low-emission engines; hurtigruten.com.

SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES

EXCITING EATERY

In January, five-time James Beard Award finalist’s chefs Andy Ticer and Michael Hudman opened Bishop, a French brasserie in The Central Station Memphis hotel, Memphis, with casual French fare, from oysters and terrines to escargot and coq au vin.

SOURCE: VOGUE



MAKEUP MUSEUM

In May 2020, The Makeup Museum will launch the world’s first exhibition in New York City dedicated to the history of beauty and its ongoing impact on society. The flagship will commence with an immersive “Pink Jungle: 1950s Makeup in America” installation, which will explore the entrepreneurs, icons and artifacts of the decade; makeupmuseum.com.

SOURCE: BUSINESS INSIDER

SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

Currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery and running through May 31, “Women of Progress: Early Camera Portraits” will feature mid-19th-century photographs of feminist icons, including abolitionist Lucretia Mott and Uncle Tom’s Cabin author Harriet Beecher Stowe. This is just one of many exhibits celebrating women throughout 2020.

SOURCE: LONELY PLANET



GREAT DESIGN

Ambiente, a Landscape Hotel, will be opening in late 2020 in Sedona, AZ. This game-changing hotel is among a handful of landscape hotels in the world that focus on sustainable materials. With 40 cube-shaped guest atriums elevated above the ground using steel piers and constructed using floor-to-ceiling bronze-tinted glass and metal, Ambiente is all about allowing guests to appreciate nature and the surroundings. Developed, owned, and managed by Two Sister Bosses, a local family-owned and -operated company, the hotel is surrounded by the protected Coconino National Forest; ambientesdona.com.

SOURCE: ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

APPYGUIDE

Instead of spending hundreds of dollars, not to mention many hours, on tours, download AppyGuide, an audio guide travel app that provides engaging information about art, history, and culture from some of the world’s leading experts. For now the app, which is free to download and comes with over \$100 credit for first-time users, only has Florence content. There are more European cities to come. “The goal is to change how people travel and experience art,” says Geneva-based AppyGuide founder Anastasija Krasnova; appyguide.com.

SOURCE: TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE