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THE NORTHWEST’S COOLEST UPSCALE RV PARK. A DUNE-SIDE RESORT DOWN UNDER.
A LUXURIOUS PRIVATE ISLAND. A SCANDINAVIAN HELI-SKI RESORT.
FROM THE WORLD’S NEW ADVENTURE FRONTIERS TO ITS BEST PLACES TO STAY, HERE
ARE *MEN’S JOURNAL*’S 2020 TRAVEL AWARDS—AND YOUR TICKET TO GET OUT THERE.

DATE
JAN/FEB 2020

PHOTOGRAPH BY
ALEX FENLON



SEAT
1A

DEPARTING
NOW

DEPLAR FARM, ICELAND

THE BEST PLACE TO DO IT ALL

THIS 28,000-square-foot lodge, with room for 34 guests, is like a high-end base camp for every adrenaline sport known to man: backcountry skiing on treeless peaks, fat-tire biking across empty plains, hiking via helicopter, sea kayaking across fjords, surfing the North Atlantic. Of course, it’s not all type-2 fun at this former sheep farm. The lodge, in the remote Fljót Valley, also happens to have one of the best spas in Iceland, with saunas, steam rooms, and flotation tanks. There’s even an outdoor geothermal pool with a swim-up bar for nighttime aurora borealis viewing. Plus, starting this year, the company’s in-house creative director [who shot this image] is offering a weeklong photo workshop to perfect your Instagram game. Of course, you’ll have a hard time taking anything *but* an epic shot here—#nofilter for sure. —RYAN KROGH

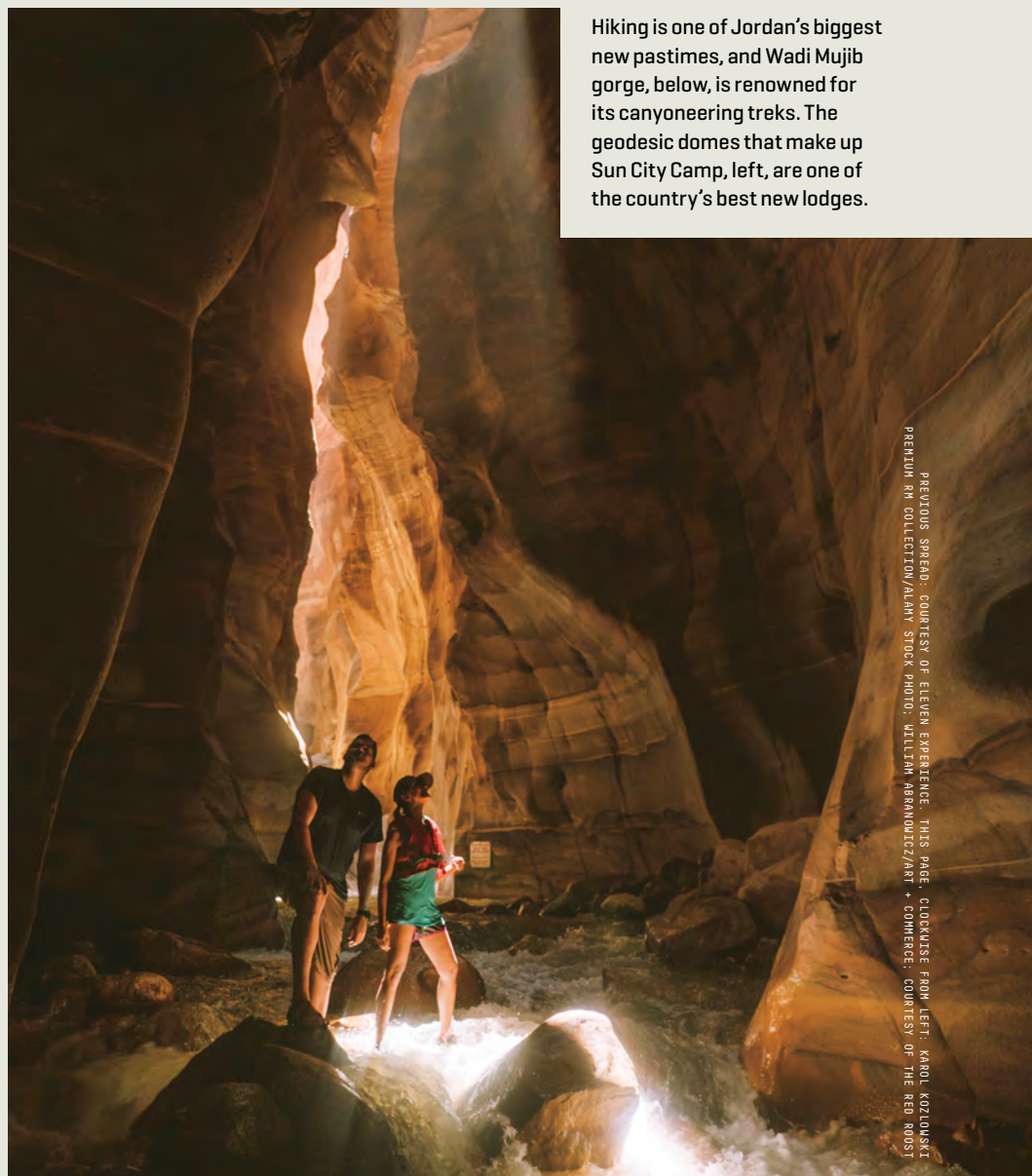
NEW ADVENTURE FRONTIER

Jordan

A MIDDLE EASTERN KINGDOM GETS AN ADVENTURE MAKEOVER



▶ Jordan has long been popular with tourists, thanks to the archaeological site Petra. But the country is increasingly full of adventure options, too, including the 400-mile Jordan Trail, which crosses all the best parts of the country, including the stunning Jordan Rift Valley. For cyclists, there's a new 453-mile cross-country bike trail, and equestrians can now play Bedouin with Jordan Inspiration Tours. Even the new lodging options are outdoorsy, like Sun City Camp, full of domed tents in the desert where you can ATV, fat bike, or rock climb in Valley of the Moon, then head to the coast to dive the coral-rich Red Sea. —JEN MURPHY



Hiking is one of Jordan's biggest new pastimes, and Wadi Mujib gorge, below, is renowned for its canyoneering treks. The geodesic domes that make up Sun City Camp, left, are one of the country's best new lodges.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: COURTESY OF ELEVEN EXPERIENCE. THIS PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: KAROL KOZLOUSKI PREMIUM RM COLLECTION/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; WILLIAM ABRAMOWICZ/ART + COMMERCE; COURTESY OF THE RED ROOST

TRAVEL INNOVATORS



WILL BOLSOVER
FOUNDER OF NATURAL
WORLD SAFARIS

Plenty of outfitters say they give back, but few do it like Natural World Safaris founder and CEO Will Bolsover. Beginning this year, NWS's Expeditions for Change will let travelers not only donate through their trip fees but also engage on the ground with worthy causes, like helping climate scientists gather data in the Arctic. In Myanmar, guests will walk inside a protected teak forest with retired elephants once used by the timber industry. "There's a lot of chatter out there about doing things the right way, and it's not always true," says Bolsover. "These trips are simply us trying to say, 'Look, this is where we can really make a big difference.'" —R.K.

FROM TOP: TOR ERIK SCHRODER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF AMENERA



UNDER RESTAURANT, NORWAY

THE BEST PLACE TO EAT FISH

OCEAN VIEW takes on a whole new meaning at Under. From land, Europe's first underwater restaurant looks like a futuristic submarine shipwrecked in the rocky waters of the North Atlantic. But the 40-seat dining room, 16 feet below sea level, feels more like an aquarium, with a panoramic window that allows guests to observe neon jellyfish, rainbow-hued wrasses, and the occasional seal as it passes by. Seafood is the star of

Danish chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard's 18-course tasting menu (\$250), not surprisingly, but he focuses on underappreciated fish like lingcod and typically discarded bits such as brown crab head. Under easily could be written off as a gimmicky tourist attraction, but the restaurant also works with marine biologists to facilitate research. Open less than a year, there's already a six-month waiting list. —JEN MURPHY



The Ultimate Paddling Experience

OCEAN ENDEAVOUR CRUISE, ARCTIC OCEAN

In 2018, when Adventure Canada added a fleet of kayaks to its 198-passenger expedition cruise ship, the outfitter became one of the first to offer paddling in the Northwest Passage. Using the ship as a floating base camp, 12 experienced guests and two guides launch tandem kayaks to ply the ice-choked waters among whales and walrus. It's a new offering, but it may be the most ancient way to experience this part of the world. "This is how the Inuit have been traveling through for thousands of years," says guide Dawson Freeze. —JAYME MOYE



THE RED ROOST, MARYLAND

The Chesapeake's Can't-Miss Crab Shack

ASK ANY LOCAL for the Eastern Shore's most legendary crab feast and they'll no doubt send you deep into the backwoods to the Red Roost, a 400-seat crab house inside a 1940s chicken coop. Inside, you'll find long tables piled high with all-you-can-eat steamed crabs. Specials include

shrimp, clams, and corn grown by the same farmer for 40 years. It's one of those joints where you'll see everyone from congress-people to local watermen, and that's perhaps its truest charm. In a country that's more polarized than ever, good food still brings us together. —TIM NEVILLE



The Most Laid-Back Luxe Resort

AMANERA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THIS RESORT, on the country's northwest coast, is the definition of luxury, with 25 casitas featuring floor-to-ceiling glass walls and massive outdoor terraces (many with their own pool) surrounded by native hedges for the feeling of total seclusion. Breakfasts packed with fresh local fruit are

offered next to the infinity pool overlooking the Caribbean. Then it's off to the mile-long, totally empty beach for surfing, swimming, or just relaxing. For dinner, you can request a private meal in the library with service so good it's prescient. And you can do all of this barefoot. No flip-flops required. —R.K.



VÖK BATHS, ICELAND

WORLD'S GREATEST SOAK

LOCATED ALONG the country's unspoiled eastern coastline, these hot baths are a series of geothermal floating pools on Lake Urriðavatn. The pools mimic the look of *vakir*, natural ice-free patches in the lake that form in winter due to the hot spring

beneath. After a dip, at the lakeside bistro you can sip tea made from homegrown herbs or try a Vök-inspired craft beer produced using the springs' pristine water and local hops—surely the purest IPA ever to touch your lips. —JAYME MOYE



The Best Water World Resort

TURTLE BAY, HAWAII

Located on Oahu's North Shore, the epicenter of surf culture, this 800-acre resort just might be the best place in the world to explore every ocean sport man has dreamed up: sailing on catamarans, outrigger canoeing, snorkeling, shark diving, whale watching, SUPing, swimming with turtles, and, of course, surfing. Back on land, the property has more than enough activities to satiate everyone, too, including two championship golf courses and a spa. —R.K.



Most Rollicking Après-Ski Bar

THE NUGGET MOUNTAIN BAR, COLORADO

WHEN DURANGO local Kevin Wright bought this 1960s mining hut, he detested the idea of turning it into another Airbnb property. "Vacation rentals are a dime a dozen in ski towns," he says. "But who doesn't want to drink in an old cabin?" So Wright remade the joint, a half-mile south of Purgatory Resort,

into the area's most cherished après dive bar. The bar top is made from old skis, the windows perfectly frame the surrounding peaks, a food truck serves pork belly sliders, and its giant deck has become known for live music. There's even a complimentary shuttle to take you home. —JEN MURPHY

TRAVEL INNOVATORS



LUIS VARGAS

FOUNDER OF
MODERN ADVENTURE

When Luis Vargas started brainstorming the inaugural trips for his travel company, Modern Adventure, his mind went to people rather than places. To provide a deeper travel experience, Vargas decided to tap in-the-know tastemakers like Michelin-starred chef Gavin Kayser, and Oregon wine icon David Adelsheim, as trip leaders. "A destination comes into sharp relief when viewed through the lens of someone's passion," says Vargas. To date, his company has 50 guides in the fields of art, food, wine, design, and fitness. Highlights for 2020 include a coffee tour of Colombia and a design-focused trip to Japan with Tung Chiang, of Heath Ceramics in San Francisco. —JEN MURPHY

FROM TOP: MARTIN VERNMAN; COLE DAVIS

NEW ADVENTURE FRONTIER

Madagascar

AFRICA'S HIDDEN PARADISE GETS A TOURIST-FRIENDLY UPGRADE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ROBERT HARDING WORLD IMAGERY/OFFSET BEYON DOBEN/GALLERY STOCK; COURTESY OF PINKY'S BEACH CLUB

Madagascar is the rare country with crowd-free mountains, including Tsaranoro Massif, in the south [above], that are great for hiking, as well as snorkel-friendly beaches with warm waters—in this case, the Indian Ocean [right].

▶ This Texas-size island off the southeast coast of Africa is best known for its lemurs, dwarf chameleons, and other rare creatures. But its extraordinary baobab forests, eroded limestone towers, and reef-lined coast makes it perhaps the world's most overlooked adventure land. In the north, the Emerald Sea is a kitesurfing paradise, while the central crater lakes of Andraikiba and Tritriva offer prime mountain bike terrain. For the best of land *and* sea, though, stay at beachside Masoala Forest Lodge. This tented treehouse provides endless options for treks in the protected rain forest and kayaking in the mangroves. —JEN MURPHY



DISCOVERY ROTTNEST ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

The Coolest Beachside Eco-Resort

ROTTNEST ISLAND, 90 minutes by ferry from Perth, is a stunning nature preserve made up of 20 crystal-blue bays on the Indian Ocean. But for years there was nowhere to stay. That changed in 2019 with the unfortunately named but decidedly cool Discovery Rottneest Island resort, built

right into the beach dunes. The property is dotted with 83 high-end tents, each with its own porch and connected by a maze of boardwalks. There's a pool, outdoor showers, and a restaurant grilling sustainably sourced fish. It's glorious, for sure; just don't call it glamping. —MICKEY RAPKIN

