



New in Travel

31

Of the world's hottest
new experiences of 2016

Which of the planet's amazing experiences are on your wish list for 2016?

How about climbing Nicaragua's highest active volcano, exploring Albania's ghost island, or being one of the first to fly to remote St Helena?

Lonely Planet's destination experts have scoured the globe for outstanding new attractions, and only the best have gone into our New in Travel ebook. Everything in our ebook is at travel's cutting edge, from epic hikes and wildlife-watching to gripping museums and culinary delights. With adventures to suit every taste, this ebook is sure to kick-start your travels in 2016.

Look out for the **Best in Travel** ribbon: this marks out attractions so unmissable that we highlighted them

in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2016, our annual guide to the cream of the travel crop.

So if you want to swap the same old beaches for fresh new sights, just-opened galleries and trails into the unknown, look no further. With these irresistible new experiences, 2016 might be your biggest adventure yet.

Noirin Hegarty

Operations Director, Lonely Planet News

Want to keep ahead of the trends? Catch up on the latest travel news at lonelyplanet.com/news and join the conversation by following us on Twitter [@lptravelnews](https://twitter.com/lptravelnews).

All information is correct at the time of writing, but timings may change. Be sure to check details before you travel.

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Climb Nicaragua's tallest active volcano

Center for Extreme Tourism, Chinandega, Nicaragua

Open: October 2015

Within the San Cristobal Volcano Natural Reserve, on the lower slopes of its namesake volcano – at 1745m, the tallest in Nicaragua – a new ecotourism facility has opened. Inspired and managed by the local community, the centre boasts an inn, dining hall and visitor services. Staffed by 350 or so members of the local tourism cooperative and built with major funding from the European Union, this centre for extreme tourism, with trails leading right up to the volcano's rim, sits along the multi-country Colonial and Volcanoes Route (rutacolonialedelosvolcanes.com), which runs through Nicaragua's Pacific region via 10-plus volcanic structures and some of the oldest cities in Central America.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntChinandega>

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Zoom along northern Japan's new bullet train route

Hokkaidō Shinkansen, Hokkaidō, Japan

Open: spring 2016

Japan's bullet train, beloved by travellers for its high speeds, ease of use and sci-fi design, will soon connect the country's northernmost island, Hokkaidō, to the main island of Honshū. The new route, passing through the Seiken Tunnel, will run 13 times a day from Tokyo to Hakodate in just over four hours. Hakodate, best known for its glittering nighttime views and seafood market, is the gateway to Hokkaidō. The island has long been popular for skiing but beyond winter sports, it has remained off the beaten track. Improved accessibility should put Hokkaidō, which offers excellent hiking, hot springs and high-quality seafood, more firmly on the travel map.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntHokkaido>

Spot newly reintroduced lions in Akagera National Park

Akagera National Park, Rwanda

Open: early 2016

Until summer 2015, lions had not roamed Rwanda's Akagera National Park for 15 years. The previous population was wiped out by disgruntled cattle herders in the years immediately following the 1994 genocide, when the park was left unmanaged. The organisation African Parks, which now operates Akagera and almost a dozen other protected areas on the continent, arranged for seven of the big cats to be transported north from South Africa. After four weeks in quarantine at Akagera, the pride was released into the greater park in mid-2015. Once the pride establishes its stomping grounds sometime in early 2016, it will be easier for safari guides to locate lions for visitors.

Matt Phillips

Lonely Planet Destination Editor for sub-Saharan Africa

([@Go2MattPhillips](#))

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntRwanda>



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Be among the first to fly to St Helena

St Helena, British Territories

Open: first flights by mid-2016

Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled to St Helena for good reason: this faint speck of green in the South Atlantic was one of the world's most inaccessible islands. Until last year, reaching this lonely outpost involved a 3100km, five-day boat expedition from Cape Town aboard the iconic Royal Mail Ship Saint Helena. All that will change in the first half of 2016 when the island's long-awaited airport opens. Direct flights from Johannesburg will cut the journey to about five hours. Thanks to 14 million years of isolation, the island hosts some 500 endemic species. Look out for Jonathan, a famous tortoise who started tottering around the island soon after Napoleon's death.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntStHelena>



Be awed by the brand-new Louvre

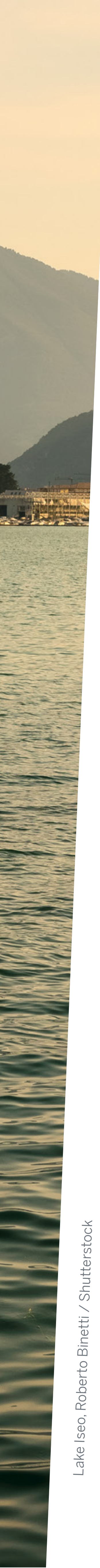
Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Open: date to be confirmed 2016

In true Gulf style, the Louvre Abu Dhabi is magnificently ambitious on every level. The futuristic, dome-shaped building is an architectural feat, appearing to float above a manmade lake. Permanent collections will represent art throughout the ages, including everything from Chinese Buddhist carvings to Italian oil paintings, while France's most renowned art institutes are poised to lend Abu Dhabi 300 additional works – Van Gogh, Monet and Da Vinci masterpieces among their number. Although Louvre Abu Dhabi's development has involved plenty of controversies, the 2016 opening of this cultural attraction will be a real game changer for the Middle East, having the potential to rival some of the world's greatest art museums.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntAbuDhabi>





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Walk on water at Italy's magical Lake Iseo

The Floating Piers, Lake Iseo, Italy

Open: June 2016

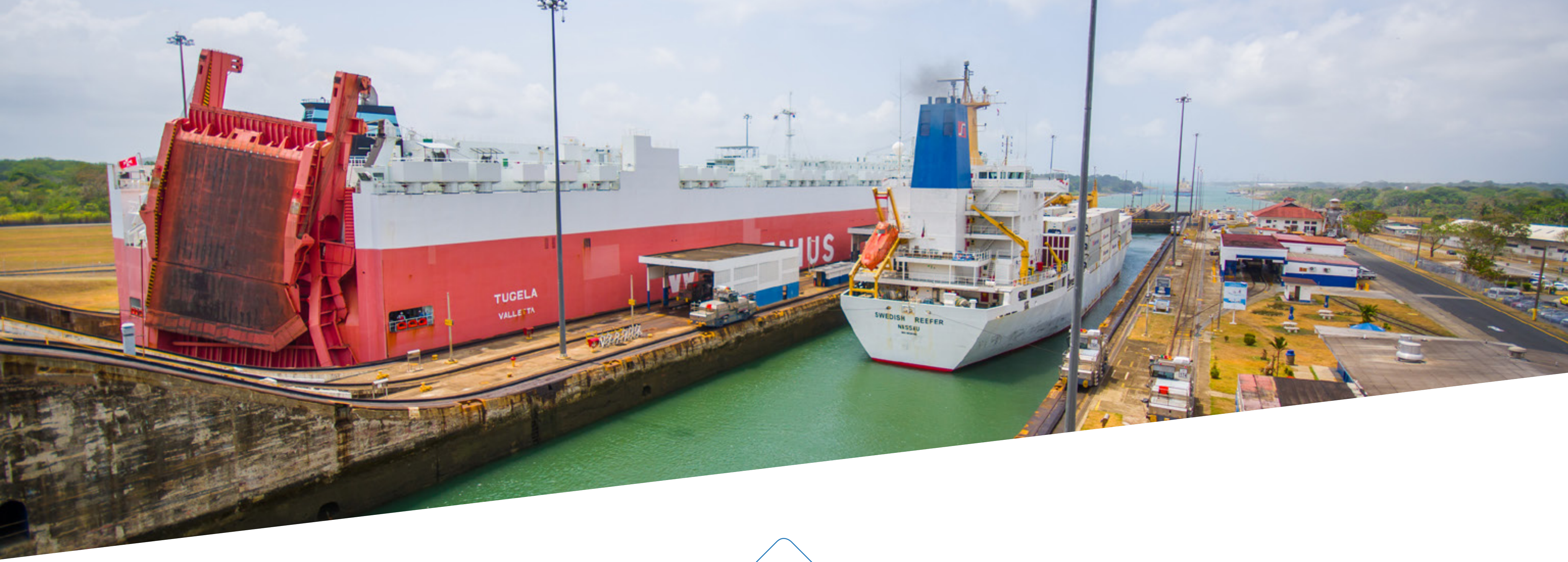
Landscape-altering artist Christo, who famously wrapped Berlin's Reichstag building in fabric in 1995 and filled New York City's Central Park with 7500 saffron-coloured gateways in 2005, is set to create another enormous artwork in Italy in 2016. For 16 days starting on 18 June, a 3km-long, yellow floating walkway will link the islands of Monte Isola and San Paolo in the centre of Lake Iseo with Sulzano on the mainland. Up to 17,750 people should be able to stroll across *The Floating Piers* at any one time, and according to the 80-year-old artist, the water moving underfoot will feel 'very sexy, a bit like walking on a water bed'.

Anna Tyler

Lonely Planet Destination Editor for Southern Europe

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Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntLombardy>



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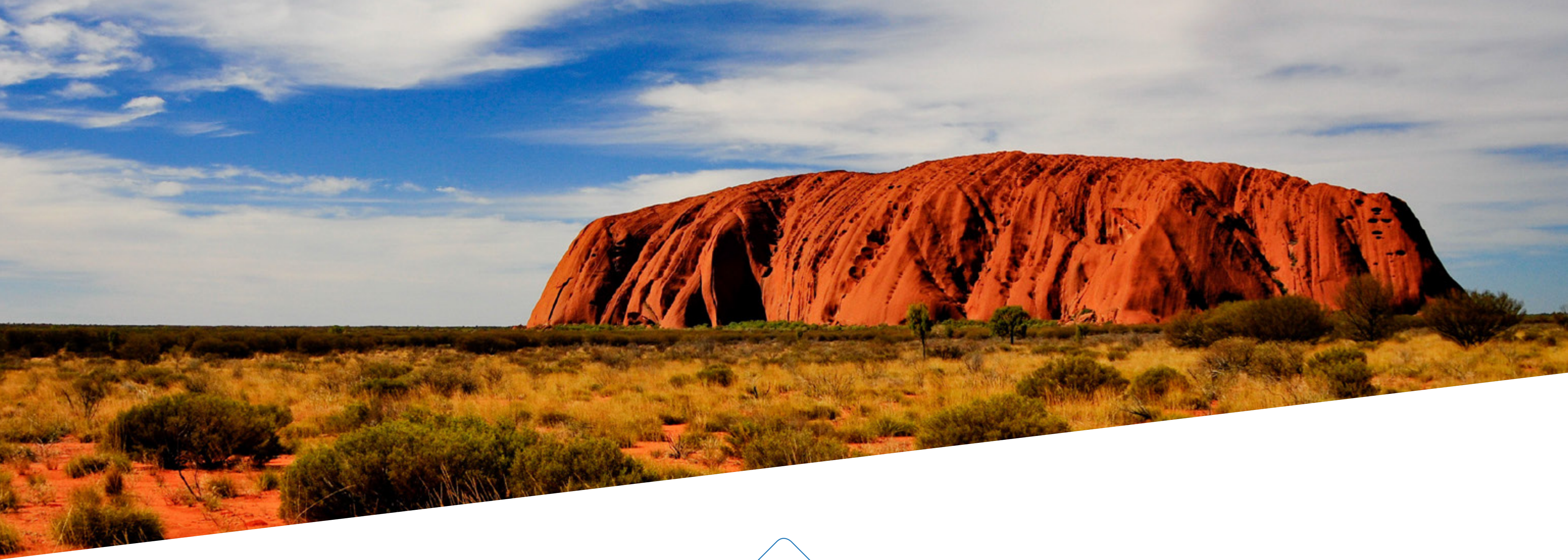
Experience an even bigger Panama Canal

Panama Canal Expansion, Panama

Open: April 2016

The \$5 billion Panama Canal expansion (micanaldepanama.com/expansion) is the largest canal project since the construction of the trade route itself. The canal is already a marvel of engineering. The expansion will make it wider, deeper and passable for bigger boats, and its completion will be 2016's headline shipping event. It will also be a tourism windfall. Ship capacity will double and visitor numbers will certainly be boosted too. With the massive locks already a special draw, the new, even larger, Third Set of Locks will be of particular appeal, along with classic attractions like Gatun Lake, the Panama Canal Railway, Panama Canal Museum and Chagres National Park.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntPanamaCanal>



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Glow among desert flowers in Australia's spiritual heart

Field of Light, Uluru, Australia

Open: 1 April 2016-31 March 2017

British artist Bruce Munro, known for monumental installations from Arizona and Mexico to the United Kingdom, is creating a new project in Australia. The 'Field of Light' installation will be located in the desert close to Uluru, the massive sandstone rock held sacred by the indigenous peoples of central Australia. More than 50,000 delicate spheres of solar-powered frosted glass, each perched on a stem, will blanket the reddish ground. As dusk falls, these desert flowers will light up to mirror the night sky above. Pathways will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the spectacle. Other events include special dinners under the stars. See ayersrockresort.com.au for more information.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntUlurukataTjuta>

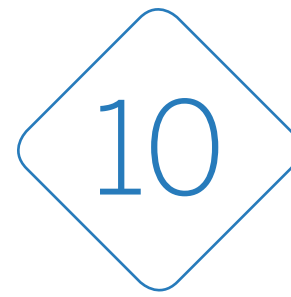
Scamper around the world's first Dr Seuss Museum

Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts, USA

Open: June 2016

Where better to honour the creator of the Cat in the Hat, Lorax and Grinch than in his hometown? Dr Seuss – aka Theodor Seuss Geisel – grew up in Springfield before becoming one of the most popular children's book authors ever. The museum's first floor recreates local landmarks that inspired Seuss's delightful and surreal stories, with plenty of hands-on, kid-focused fun. The second floor, set to debut in 2017, will display Seuss art and artifacts, including a reproduction of the studio of this visionary writer. The museum is a companion attraction to the nearby Dr Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden; Springfield Museums (springfieldmuseums.org) operates both.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntMassachusetts>



Luxuriate on Gili Meno's island retreat

BASK, Gili Meno, Indonesia

Open: date to be confirmed 2016

You might think you're more likely to bump into David Hasselhoff at a German karaoke bar, but if you're headed to Indonesia you might just see him by the pool. The Hoff is the face of BASK (baskgilimeno.com), a luxury villa-resort development currently under construction on Gili Meno, a picturesque island between Bali and Lombok. Situated on a private white-sand beach, BASK will boast a world-class restaurant, chic beach club with infinity pool, state-of-the-art spa and its very own underwater sculpture park. Not to mention a star in its midst – the entertainer is said to be eyeing up a three-bedroom 'Hoff Hideaway' vacation villa of his own here.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntGiliMeno>



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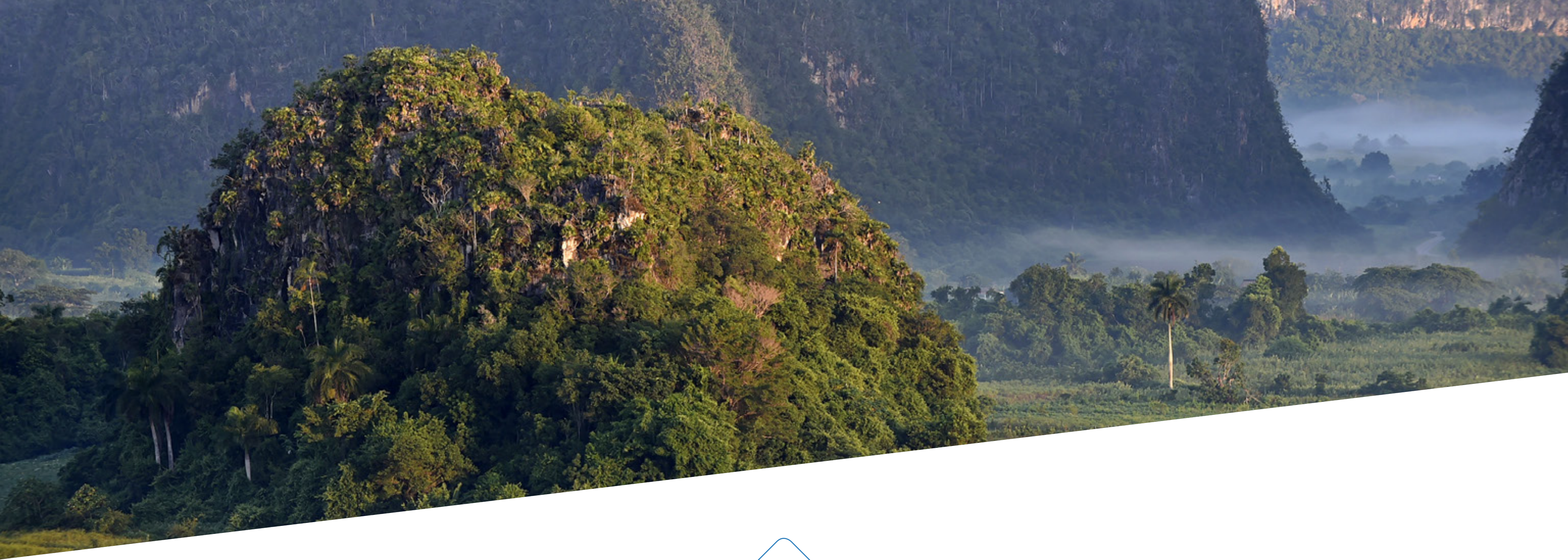
Be invigorated by the world's first inland surf lagoon

Surf Snowdonia, Wales

Open: date to be confirmed 2016

The mountains and valleys of Snowdonia are ideal for walkers and adventure sports fans. The natural landscape is increasingly being augmented by impressive manmade facilities – Snowdonia now boasts Europe's longest zip-line and a vast underground trampolining centre. But its most radical attraction opens in 2016: a £12 million, 300m-long artificial surf lagoon that uses rainwater to produce a consistent, barrelling 2m wave every 60 seconds. It's a world first, and one that doesn't just appeal to hardened surfers: the wave's size varies in different parts of the lagoon, and its consistent pace helps beginners. Surf kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and 'blobbing' are also on offer (surfsnowdonia.co.uk).

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntWales>



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Zip-line amid the crags and tobacco pastures of Viñales

Fortin Canopy Tours, Viñales, Cuba

Open: autumn 2015

Long a nexus for Cuba's unofficial climbing community, the Valle de Viñales, two hours west of Havana, recently added another knuckle-whitening adventure to its clutch of activities: Cuba's second Canopy Tour. Measuring 1100m and split into four stages, the new zip-lines shoot vertigo-shunners over the verdant foliage of Cuba's most iconic national park, a dramatic landscape of bulbous limestone cliffs and tranquil tobacco plantations. With tourist numbers on the rise, the park has also put forward plans for a 'plant-to-cigar' tobacco tour and possible government sanction for some of its 250-plus climbing routes.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntVinales>

Honour the fight for freedom by understanding slavery's history

The Memorial ACTe, Point-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe

Open: July 2015

Built on the waterfront site of the Darboussier sugar refinery, the Mémorial ACTe (memorial-acte.fr), also known as MACTe, is the Caribbean Centre of Expression and Memory of Slavery & the Slave Trade. It's now the world's largest museum dedicated to the reality of slavery and victims of subjugation from the 17th century to the present day. Housed in an architecturally splendid building, designed to resemble silver roots on a black box, MACTe makes bold use of immersive and interactive technologies. The museum's multidisciplinary approach invites reflection about racism, servitude and human rights. There is also a cafeteria, shop, media library and research area, plus two restaurants on site.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntGuadeloupe>

Cycle the sands and seascapes of Gansbaai on a fatbike

Fatbike Tours, De kelders, Western Cape, South Africa

Open: mid-2015

Fatbike? Forget about Freddie Mercury, these sensational new bicycles are all about their novel wheels, not the size of their riders. Their unusually wide, low-pressure tyres allow you to comfortably cruise over soft sands that would stop all other bikes in their tracks (yes, even mountain bikes). And what sublime sand and seascapes there are around Gansbaai – two of Fatbike Tours' new trips give riders the option of cycling along the lovely long stretches of beach in the region, working your way around the dramatic rock outcrops. One covers 20km to the whale watching capital of Hermanus, while another takes cyclists up into the large dunes flanking the coast.

Matt Phillips

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Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntWesternCape>



Dive deep into Singapore's teeming biodiversity

Sisters' Islands Marine Park Dive Trail, Singapore

Open: November 2015

Delicate sea sponges, colourful gorgonians, and most of Nemo's friends are among the plethora of marine life you'll see along Singapore's first underwater dive trail. This underwater adventure can be found at the Sisters' Islands Marine Park, a haven for the rare underwater flora and fauna that make their home in Singapore's Southern Islands. The site comprises two 100m-long trails that come with explanatory signboards. A shallow trail, about 6m deep, leads to a deeper one that dips to 15m. As waters here can be treacherous, only advanced divers are allowed a glimpse of these treasures. The best months to take the plunge are November to March.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntSingapore>

Revisit the Cold War on Albania's ghost island

Sazan Island, southern Albania

Open: July 2015

Albania has started to open new attractions in a bid to draw more visitors to its mysterious shores. Captivating Sazan ghost island, the largest on the Albanian coast, certainly fits the bill. This strategically located Communist-era military base (about 45 minutes by boat from the port of Vlora, where the Adriatic and Ionian seas meet) played host to a former Soviet Union submarine. Derelict apartment buildings and an abandoned school emit a spooky vibe in this Mediterranean version of a *Lost* film set. Sazan opened to the public in summer 2015, luring visitors for its post-apocalyptic feel, as well as its hiking terrain among pine trees, with postcard-perfect views of the sea below.

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Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntAlbania>

A close-up photograph of several Mickey Mouse plush toys. The focus is on two large Mickey Mouse heads in the foreground, with others visible in the background. The toys are light brown with large black ears and black noses.

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Explore the newest Magic Kingdom

Shanghai Disney Resort, China

Open: spring 2016

Opening its doors in spring 2016, Disney's newest resort – and its first in mainland China – will feature a traditional Magic Kingdom park complete with the Enchanted Storybook Castle, the largest in any Disney theme park. Rides and attractions will be scattered around six themed areas, including pirate-themed Treasure Cove with its high-tech 'Pirates of the Caribbean – Battle of the Sunken Treasure' ride. The Garden of the Twelve Friends at the park's centre will reimagine the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac as Disney characters. Two hotels, art nouveau-style Shanghai Disneyland Hotel and the Toy Story Hotel, will accommodate guests in the park (shanghaidisneyresort.com.cn/en).

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntShanghai>

Celebrate four centuries of Shakespeare

Stratford-upon-Avon, England

Open: April 2016

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, head to his hometown, Stratford-upon-Avon, and celebrate the best of the Bard. New Place, where Shakespeare lived for the last 19 years of his life, will reopen after an extensive reimagining, featuring artwork, displays and artifacts linked to Shakespeare's years as an outstanding writer and family man. The Royal Shakespeare Company will host a major new exhibition immersing visitors in the history of Shakespeare and theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. They'll also join the town in its celebrations of Shakespeare's birth on 23 April, and broadcast a special on British TV channel BBC2. Stratford-upon-Avon is also home to Shakespeare's birthplace, schoolroom, grave, and other sites.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntStratfordUponAvon>





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Learn the story of the blues in Missouri

National Blues Museum, St Louis, Missouri, USA

Open: April 2016

America's most influential musical style is finally getting its due at a brand-new, dedicated museum. The National Blues Museum (nationalbluesmuseum.org) tells the tale of the soulful genre, from its origin in the rural South, to how it scattered north during the Great Migration, to how it paved the way for rock 'n' roll. Exhibits cover Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy, the Rolling Stones and many more musical icons. There's a feast of interactive technology, such as the 'Mix It Up' display that lets you compose and record your own fret-bending song. The exhibition space – a revamped, century-old department store downtown – also holds a 150-seat concert venue.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntStLouis>

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Dine like a dancing queen in Stockholm

Mamma Mia! The Party, Stockholm, Sweden

Open: January 2016

Take one part restaurant, one part performance, a generous splash of disco (and ouzo), a touch of audience participation and what do you get? A new Mamma Mia!–themed restaurant (mammamiatheparty.com), slated to open in Stockholm’s Gröna Lund amusement park in January 2016. ABBA legend Björn Ulvaeus is behind the new interactive disco-dining experience, set within a Greek-style taverna. Diners will tuck into a lavish Mediterranean buffet while a story unfolds around them. With the chance to take part in the show, and to sing and dance to the hits featured in the world-famous musical, super-fans are set to enjoy a delicious feast of ABBA fun in 2016.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntStockholm>

Cool off in Rio's new water park

Praia de Rocha Miranda, Parque Madureira, Rio de Janeiro

Open: October 2015

Ahead of the 2016 Summer Olympics, Rio has been investing in more than stadiums and transport links. In the working class district of the Zona Norte (North Zone), the city inaugurated Praia de Rocha Miranda water park. Set in the lushly landscaped Parque Madureira (www.facebook.com/ParquedeMadureira), the park features a sandy beach for lounging, splash areas beneath cascading waterfalls, and a large shallow pool. The aquatic park is an instant hit, providing an appealing recreation area for an often neglected part of the city. The park also has an area for football, volleyball and basketball, plus a skate park (complete with half-pipe) tipped to open in late 2016.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntRioDeJaneiro>

22

Explore an island of wine and wonder

Te Ara Hura, Waiheke Island, New Zealand

Open: November 2015

Balance Waiheke's sybaritic pleasures – including art galleries, vineyard restaurants, fresh oysters and craft beer – by negotiating Te Ara Hura ('Path of Discovery'), just 45 minutes from Auckland by ferry. This 100km walking track around the island takes an estimated five days, staying in bed and breakfast or cottage accommodation along the way. Alternatively, walkers can tackle parts of the trail as day excursions. Hikers can gaze at sweeping beaches, compact coves and rocky headlands, and on Waiheke's more rugged southeastern tip, views extend across the Hauraki Gulf to the islands of Rotoroa and Ponui. For more information, search for 'Te Ara Hura' on aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntWaihekeIsland>



Understand the richness of African American history

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Washington, DC, USA

Open: autumn 2016

On its inauguration the NMAAHC (nmaahc.si.edu) will become America's first national museum devoted exclusively to African American life, history and culture. The 10-storey space will house artifacts from all over the country and across history – from Harriet Tubman's 1876 hymn book, to a Jim Crow-era segregated railcar, to banners and photographs from the Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntWashingtonDC>

Be dazzled by contemporary art in London

Tate Modern, London, England

Open: June 2016

The hotly anticipated £260-million extension of the Tate Modern will open to the public on 17 June 2016. This new 10-storey building, designed by Herzog & de Meuron in the form of a twisting pyramid, located behind the former power station housing the Tate Modern, will increase the museum's display space by a whopping 60 percent. The new gallery configurations and the vast space on the lower level, called The Tanks, offer a dynamic environment for live art, installations and film. Recent acquisitions and the Tate's growing international collection will have centre stage, and the museum will undergo a complete re-hang, showing works by over 250 artists from 50 countries.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntLondon>



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Visit a new home for the legends of football

FIFA World Football Museum, Zürich, Switzerland

Open: spring 2016

Zürich is upping its game. The Swiss city is preparing to cut the ribbon on the new FIFA World Football Museum, scheduled to open in spring 2016 and costing a cool 180 million Swiss francs. It's the moment footie fans have been waiting for: in the heart of the city, this 3500-sq-metre whopper of a museum will whisk fans through the game's history, with a timeline, hall of fame and cinema. It will recreate stadium fever using a giant football pinball machine, and it will harbour the world's biggest collection of football books. Huddled away in the basement is the museum's very own Venus de Milo: the World Cup Trophy itself.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntZurich>

Let your inner child run wild in Rochester

Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester, New York, USA

Open: September 2015

If you're itching to recapture your long-lost childhood, head to Rochester's National Toy Hall of Fame®. There's a 20-foot tower that creates virtual bubbles you can move and pop by motion-capture technology. On a large Crayon Piano, you can compose a music and light show. Use cranks and pulleys to activate an oversized kinetic toy sculpture built out of blocks, balls and a toy-car race track. Discover all this and plenty more at the \$4 million, state-of-the-art Toy Halls of Fame permanent exhibit at the Strong National Museum of Play (museumofplay.org), where guests get hands-on with toy-industry Hall of Fame inductees and other inspiring playthings loved by generations.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntNewYork>



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Hungarian goodies in a historic market mall

Klauzál Square Market, Budapest, Hungary

Open: October 2015

Budapest's historic market hall on Klauzál Square in the seventh district (or *romkocsma*, 'ruin pub' district) has been completely renovated and reopened as Klauzál Square Market. Farmers' market vendors and craft stalls fill the 7000 square metres of this market hall, which was originally opened in 1897 as Budapest's third market hall. The airy new emporium now holds several storeys of market stalls offering Budapest's most mouth-watering local produce, baked goods, as well as arts and crafts. The market is open from 7am to 10pm, making it easy to swing in for a fresh bite to eat or a souvenir, perhaps before hitting one of the local ruin pubs.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntBudapest>



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Enjoy Paris' freshly minted cultural experience

Monnaie de Paris, France

Open: mid-2016

Mid-2016 sees the French capital's mint (monnaiedeparis.fr) complete its 'MétaLmorphoses' project, a multi-phase transformation of its monumental 1.2-hectare site on the Seine's Left Bank. Following 2014's contemporary art exhibitions in the mint's sumptuous neoclassical building and the 2015 arrival of triple-Michelin-starred chef Guy Savoy's flagship restaurant, in 2016 the Monnaie de Paris will unveil previously unseen collections. As well as admiring treasures of silver and gold, travellers can discover metalwork and foundry workshop tours, boutiques, and savour distinctive menus in Guy Savoy's MetaLcafé brasserie. Interior streets and a park overlooked by a restored 1690 town house built by Jules Hardouin Mansart will be publicly viewable for the first time.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntParis>

Explore an art stockpile on Chicago's South Side

Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Open: October 2015

Artist Theaster Gates bought a tumbledown bank building for \$1 in Chicago's neglected South Shore neighbourhood, and transformed it into a fascinating African-American cultural centre and gallery (<https://rebuild-foundation.org/site/stony-island-arts-bank/>). Staff give tours of the multifaceted collections, including the 5000-album vinyl trove of local DJ Frankie Knuckles (the Godfather of House Music) and a roomful of racist 'negrobilia' items. The vintage glass lantern slides (60,000 of them, showing art through the ages) and stacked-to-the-rafters library of black art and history books are other fascinating sets to browse, along with the main floor exhibitions. It's free to explore the centre, and there are daily workshops and events.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntChicago>



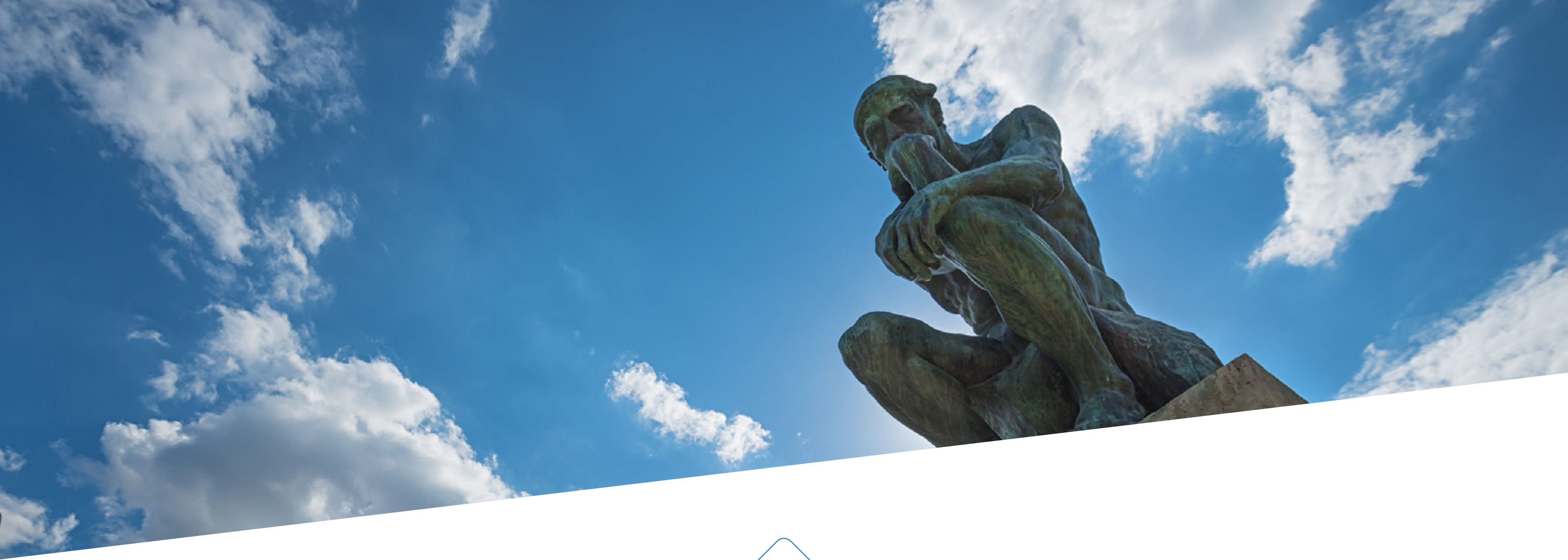
Roll the dice at Macau's star-studded casino resort

Studio City, Macau

Open: October 2015

Joining the Venices and Parises of Macau's Cotai Strip is Studio City (studiocity-macau.com), a colossal Hollywood-themed casino complex. Its architectural marvels include gargantuan towers, an art deco-style statuary intended to evoke Gotham City, and a 130m-tall ferris wheel shaped like an auspicious '8' figure. The US\$3.2 billion complex has a 1600-room luxury hotel, a 400-table casino, dozens of restaurants, and a huge entertainment centre offering everything from Batman-themed simulation flights to Asia's first Pacha nightclub. Studio City even has its own (short) film – directed by Martin Scorsese, no less, and starring Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio playing actors about to audition inside a (surprise!) casino.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/Macau>



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Experience Rodin in a new light in Paris

Musée Rodin, Paris, France

Open: November 2015

Following an extensive three-year, €16-million renovation, one of Paris' most beloved museums, the Musée Rodin, reopened with much fanfare in the historic Hôtel Biron. Rodin's studio until 1917, this grand 1730 mansion now showcases his famous works, such as *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*, in rejuvenated surrounds, and is now accessible to travellers with disabilities. Spread across 18 rooms, the collection traces Rodin's life and work. One room recreates the space as it was when the artist lived there, with original furniture, Rodin's artwork, as well as pieces from his personal collection of Greek and Roman sculpture. Exhibits include some of Rodin's plaster sculptures that have never before been displayed.

Start planning your trip at: <http://lptravel.to/ntParis>

Travel tech in 2016:

Special spotlight from

Lonely Planet News

In recent years, travel technology has been advancing rapidly and entering the mainstream. Even Airbnb listings can now be enjoyed without human interaction, as digital-minded hosts set up electronic key drops and communicate by email.

A new hotel in downtown Munich called Hotel Buddy uses a cloud-based hotel management platform to allow people to book rooms, check in and pay via their mobile phone. You might lose the personal touch, but less staff means lower costs and plenty of travellers are tech-savvy enough to reap the benefits.

We're also seeing a rise in robotic helpers in travel. At Crowne Plaza San Jose-Silicon Valley Hotel, you can

enjoy room service brought to you by a robot butler, perfect if you 'forget' to close your robe while answering the door. Or if you're lost during your transfer in Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, you might be assisted by Spencer, a friendly robot designed to help you find your gate.

They may be a novelty now, but as technology improves and costs decrease, expect to see more metallic maids and chrome concierges on your travels. Just try not to dwell on the fact that software engineers are starting to teach robots how to say 'no' to humans.

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