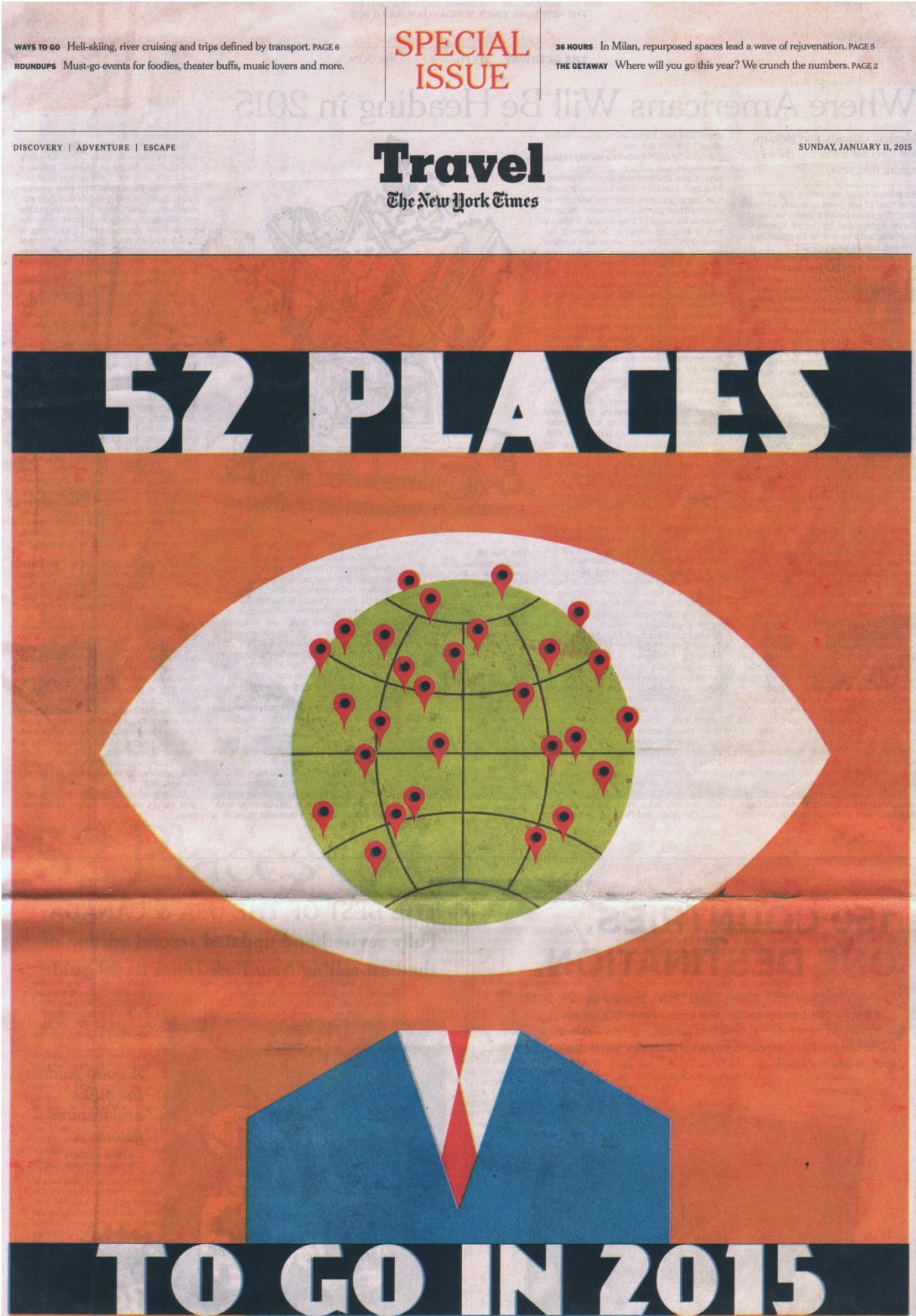


Inkaterra | The New York Times | 11 January 2015 | Circulation: 2,149,012



16. Lower Manhattan

Ground Zero is in the midst of a remarkable comeback.

More than a decade after 9/11, the southern tip of Manhattan is becoming one of New York City's most vibrant neighborhoods. The long-awaited One World Trade Center and 9/11 Memorial, which opened last year, will soon be surrounded by an appealing array of dining, shopping and lodging establishments. A stunning transportation hub designed by Santiago Calatrava will join the Fulton Center and its dazzling oculus. Eatery, Mario Batali's ultra-popular food hall, will soon have a sister location downtown. Brookfield Place (formerly known as the World Financial Center) is completing major renovations to make way for over a dozen upscale boutiques, a second food market, and a restaurant by the celebrity chef Joël Robuchon. The new Pier A Harbor House offers fresh seafood, craft beers and hard-to-beat harbor views. Also underway: a series of luxurious condominiums and lodgings, including the Beekman Hotel, set in a turreted 19th-century building with ornate interiors.

PAOLA SINGER

17. Tanzania

A safari revival in troubled times.

Security fears in neighboring Kenya have inadvertently worked in Tanzania's favor, as far as tourism goes: Its luxurious new lodges are enticing diverted visitors. The ever-popular Serengeti retains its cachet with high-profile openings. Asilia Africa's secluded Namiri Plains property and roving mobile camp Kimondo opened in July, followed by Legendary Expeditions' Mwiba Tented Camp in August, and a revamp of &Beyond Grumeti Tented Camp is slated to be unveiled this April. But the real new treasure here is unprecedented access to sparsely trafficked regions. Nomad Tanzania opened Kuro amid the baobab-studded landscapes of Tarangire; Azura opened a new camp in southern Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve, home to large concentrations of elephant, wild dog and leopard; while Ruaha, one of Tanzania's largest yet least visited national parks, is now home to Nomad's new Kigelia camp and Asilia's Kwihaha. Not to be outdone by its bush brethren, the alluring isle of Zanzibar is scaling up its luxury hotel offerings in the form of the coming Park Hyatt Zanzibar.

SARAH KHAN

18. The North Coast of Peru

A desert coast begs to be explored.

As tourism in Peru expands beyond the obligatory trip to Cuzco, this often-overlooked desert region is opening up. Lindblad Cruises has added stops in Trujillo, near important archaeological sites like the adobe city of Chan Chan and the Moche pyramid complexes of Sipán and El Brujo, which have opened museums in recent years. In town, the Libertador hotel, set in a Spanish



KEVIN SCHAFER/CORBIS

colonial mansion, has undergone a \$2 million renovation. Farther north, the Chaparrí Reserve outside Chiclayo, a habitat for highly threatened Andean spectacle bears, will have a bit of pop-cultural relevance this year with the release of a Paddington Bear film, built around a member of the species "from deepest, darkest Peru." If you'd prefer nature by day and boutique digs by night, the eco-hotelier Inkaterra is following up the opening of the six-room KICHIC, in the low-key surf village of Mancora, by laying the groundwork for community-based tourism projects like sport-fishing and whale-watching charters at nearby Cabo Blanco, a former Hemingway fishing hangout, while pushing to establish a marine reserve and eventually a hotel.

NICHOLAS GILL

19. Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Celebrating a century of skiing.

This winter marks the 100th anniversary of Colorado's oldest continually operating ski area. In late 1914, a Norwegian bricklayer named Carl Howelsen cleared trees and brush from a steep hillside overlooking Steamboat Springs to build what would eventually become Howelsen Hill Ski Area. These days, with its one double chair, three surface lifts and 440 vertical feet of skiing, Howelsen Hill is overshadowed by the

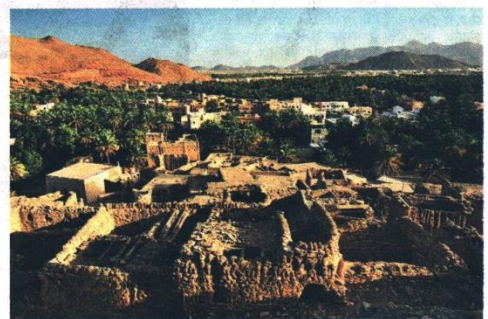
ranching and mining town's bigger resort, Steamboat, which has 16 lifts, a 3,668-vertical-foot drop and recently expanded night skiing and new summer biking trails. But don't let size matter: Howelsen has produced at least 88 Olympians over the years. Head to Steamboat Springs in February for the Winter Carnival to celebrate a century of skiing in the West with jumping exhibitions, tubing parties and parades.

TIM NEVILLE

20. Oman

The Middle East's best-kept secret no longer.

The sultanate of Oman shares little with the United Arab Emirates aside from a border: The staggering peaks in Oman's landscapes come from mountains, not skyscrapers; its dramatic coastlines owe little to man-made engineering; and the unending hubbub of Dubai and Abu Dhabi is contrasted here with the sheer silence of Oman's numerous wadis, or ravines. But don't expect this idyll to remain unspoiled for long. Oman has lately been in the throes of a hotel boom of Dubai-like proportions: Aila Jabal Akhdar opened against a staggering mountain-landscape last year; next up, Anantara is planning two resorts — a rival for Aila in Jabal Akhdar and another along the Dhofar coast in the south — and Radisson Blu moves in to Sohar, a historic port in the country's northern reaches. Four Seasons, W, Kempinski,



CHRISTIAN BOBST/D PHOTO, VIA REDUX

Fairmont and Aman are said to be planning forays. SARAH KHAN

21. Cleveland

A comeback fueled by art, culture and King James.

When LeBron James decided to return to his roots, Cleveland was already rallying after decades of decline. A milelong stretch of Detroit Avenue is now the Gordon Square Arts District, the city's newest creative hub. Waterfront warehouses are being transformed into restaurants and retail spaces. And the recent reopening of the Museum of Contemporary Art in a modern mirrored, hexagonal structure has solidified the Uptown district's newly hip status. Another reason to visit this year? To beat the politicians who will descend on the city for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

INGRID K. WILLIAMS

22. Sri Lanka

More stability means better access to more treasures.

While tourism on this South Asian island was growing in fits and starts for almost a decade, visits to the region were hampered by unrest. Lately, however, the country seems genuinely stable, and a new generation of hotels is offering luxurious and creative accommodations. The 40-room Cape Weligama opened on a 12-acre site overlooking the Indian Ocean. This spring, TRI, a new 10-suite hotel will also offer a boutique option on the banks of Lake Koggala, with a cantilevered pool and treetop yoga studio; in November, the Wild Coast Lodge will make its debut on a beautiful beach in Yala National Park, with 28 luxury tents and an Ayurvedic spa. Infrastructure is also improving. Exhibit A is a coastal highway that has made the journey between Galle and Colombo a snap. ONDINE COHANE



In Tanzania, new ways to survey the Serengeti.

Ways to Go

There are plenty of exciting places to go this year, but there also will be new ways to get there. Here are a few of our favorites.

- Australia's national rail is debuting an extended four-day transcontinental journey beginning in Darwin and ending in Adelaide. The 76-hour trip through the Australian Outback includes stops at Katherine and Alice Springs and a new excursion to Coober Pedy's remote and cavernous opal mine, which will celebrate its centennial this year.
- On the 50th anniversary of heli-skiing's birth, head to British Columbia, home to CMH Heli-Skiing, the sport's gorilla, with 11 lodges sprinkled across unreal mountain ranges, and CMH Bugaboo Lodge, whose bar and living area have been renovated for the winter. Can't spare a week? CMH and others now offer shorter options to attract a younger, busy clientele.
- Fifty years after the introduction of the world's first bullet train, Japan's Shinkansen, new high-speed rail lines are opening all over the world. In 2015, high-speed train services are scheduled to



Heli-skiing will mark its 50th anniversary this year, and British Columbia is the place to be.

connect Rome and Milan; Paris and Barcelona, Spain; Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey; Beijing and Hong Kong; Seoul and Busan, South Korea; and Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia.

• As interest in Myanmar has grown, so have cruise routes on its central Irrawaddy River, linking the country's largest city, Yangon, to its biggest tourist draws, in-

cluding historic Bagan. Sanctuary Retreats just launched the new 20-suite Sanctuary Ananda in November. This October, Avalon Waterways will introduce the Avalon Myanmar, with 36 window-walled suites.

• Stunning Halong Bay features almost 2,000 limestone islands jutting out of the sea off the coast of Vietnam. Expansive aerial views of this emerald-green seascape are now possible on scenic seaplane flights, leaving from the capital, Hanoi. After landing on the water, visitors can board a luxury wooden boat for an overnight cruise.

• Scotland completes an almost 300-million-pound project to restore an old train line linking Edinburgh to the Scottish Borders this summer, making it easier than ever to get there. This is the first time in more than half a century that there will be trains running on this track, which was once one of the few ways of connecting the Scottish Borders area with the rest of the country.

KATIE PARLA, CHRISTOPHER SOLOMON, DAVE SEMINARA, ELAINE GLUSAC, DAVID W. LLOYD AND CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN