

# Where to go in 2016

Now Christmas is over, it's time to plan some new and exciting adventures. Sarah Marshall suggests holiday hotspots for this year

## BEST FOR SCENERY: UTAH, USA

This year, America's National Park service celebrates its 100th anniversary, providing a good excuse to visit some of the country's most pristine and protected areas.

The state of Utah is home to a 'Mighty 5' park, and with Delta's new daily direct flight from Heathrow to Salt Lake City operating from May 2 (from £754 return), it's even easier to reach.

Marvel at the wind-sculpted sandstone structures in Arches National Park, explore the towering hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, or discover a 100-mile warp in the Earth's crust at Capitol Reef.

After dark, the sightseeing continues at several designated International Dark Sky Parks.

Photograph the Milky Way above the famous Mesa Arch landform in Canyonlands or wander through ancient Puebloan ruins at the Natural Bridges National Monument.

During the winter season, Utah is a favourite destination for skiers and snowboarders. The Cherry Peak Resort, near Logan in northern Utah, features three triple chairlifts and a 1.25-mile run.

■ Visit [www.visitutah.com](http://www.visitutah.com)

## BEST FOR CULTURE: STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Even after several centuries, Shakespeare's plays continue to impress and entertain audiences worldwide with his works translated into more than 75 languages.

This year though, attention will be firmly focused on his birthplace Stratford-upon-Avon, marking the 400th anniversary of his death on April 23 with a series of new openings and special exhibitions.

Learn about Shakespeare's personal life through artefacts

on display at a re-imagining of his former family home, New Place, inset, where he lived for the last 19 years of his life and wrote 26 major works.

The new attraction has been billed as the single most significant project to commemorate the playwright's legacy.

Then delve further into his past by visiting Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall at King Edward VI School, where the Bard honed his writing skills.

Following a major restoration, the 15th century

building is open to the public for the first time.

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will be staging productions throughout the year, along with a new discovery tour: Page To Stage, giving a behind-the-scenes look at the

famous playhouse and an opportunity to look inside the RSC's store of 30,000 costumes.

■ Visit [www.shakespeares-england.co.uk/shakespeare-2016](http://www.shakespeares-england.co.uk/shakespeare-2016)

## BEST FOR ADVENTURE: PERU

Peru has always been a bestseller in South America, and bookings are set to further soar when British Airways launches a new direct flight from Gatwick to Lima on May 4, from £561 return.

Capital city Lima has a lively gourmet scene and boasts some of the

on the site of an ancient corn plantation. Both can be reached

by road from Cusco. The Ultimate Travel Company offers a 10-day private Highlights Of Peru tour visiting Lima, Cusco and the Sacred Valley from £3,125pp, saving £1,540 per couple if booked by February 29. Includes direct BA flights from London.

■ Visit [www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](http://www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)

## BEST FOR FOODIES: SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN

As the European Capital of Culture 2016, this city in northern Spain will host a series of talks, exhibitions and events throughout the year. But the main draw continues to be the fantastic range of restaurants and bars available, many of which regularly appear in The World's Best 50 Restaurants list.

Spend a weekend sampling some of the 200 pinxto bars

continent's top restaurants; experiment with flavours at award winning Central ([www.centralrestaurant.com.pe/en/](http://www.centralrestaurant.com.pe/en/)), where the menu is based on ingredients foraged from Peru's different altitudes, or sample national dish ceviche (raw fish cured in citrus juice) at lunch only restaurant Chez Wong ([facebook.com/ChezJavierWong](http://facebook.com/ChezJavierWong)).

Inca citadel Machu Picchu is undoubtedly one of Peru's highlights, with passes for the popular Inca Trail selling out months in advance.

Tourists now have more comfortable options for a stay in the Sacred Valley, allowing them time to acclimatise to higher altitudes and enjoy the scenery.

Last year, Inkaterra opened the Hacienda Urubamba and, in August, Explora will launch new property Valle Sagrado

in the Old Town, serving the Basque version of tapas, inset, or incorporate the city into a wider itinerary.

Pura Aventura ([pura-aventura.com](http://pura-aventura.com)) is running a new 10-night Basque Foodie Adventure, visiting producers and sampling products from the coast to the highlands.

Highlights include a visit to millennia-old salt pans, where harvesters collect salt for Michelin-starred chefs, a pintxo making class in Pamplona, and a visit to the hallowed San

Sebastian supper club, the Gastronomic Society. Prices start from £1,995pp (two sharing) including several meals and excursions. Flights to Bilbao are extra.

■ Visit [www.dss2016.eu/en/](http://www.dss2016.eu/en/) for a full programme of events

