



6 travel destinations that should be on your wish list for 2016

11 days ago

It's January and let's face it, it's bleak. Time to shrug of the winter blues by booking your next adventure,

Press Association Travel Editor Sarah Marshall gives her top picks for the year ahead.

1. Stratford-Upon-Avon – for culture.



Shakespeare's home town (Thinkstock/PA)

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, 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.





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The Okavango's unusual topography has resulted in various animal adaptations, such as swimming lions. Stay at private concession Duba Plains, where film-makers Dereck and Beverly Joubert famously documented the resident pride who hunt buffalo in broad daylight.

Botswana also has one of the highest populations of endangered wild dog and Belmond's Khwai River Lodge, on the border of the Moremi Wildlife Reserve, is currently a good place to track them. Africa specialist, The Ultimate Travel Company tailor-make a one-week luxury safari from £7,515pp, with three nights at Duba Plains, followed by two nights at Khwai River Lodge and two nights at Eagle Island River Lodge. Includes meals, activities, transfers and flights from London.

3. Peru – for adventure.



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Peru has always been a bestseller in South America, and bookings are set to further soar when British Airways launch 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 continent's top restaurants; experiment with flavours at award winning Central, 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.



Lima in Peru (Thinkstock/PA)

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 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.