



The **BEST**
PLACE TO BE
TODAY

A stylized graphic consisting of a dark grey location pin with a clock face inside the circle, positioned above a green line that forms a path or road leading downwards.

365 THINGS TO DO
& THE PERFECT DAY
TO DO THEM

COMPILED AND EDITED BY SARAH BAXTER







INTRODUCTION

Where in the world is the best place to be today, tomorrow or for your next birthday?



My, I felt smug. The sky was too blue to be true, a spread of cobalt I thought only existed in Technicolor or Photoshop. The historic trail – largely empty, it being before the peak hiking months – was fringed by a golden

fuzz of gorse, while surrounding meadows nodded with purples, pinks and fresh greens. Birds were in good voice, singing and zinging from the leafy treetops on a quest to secure a mate. And the days were endless! The sunshine hours stretched beyond 10pm, encouraging late nights on warm-enough outdoor terraces, savouring tapas dishes of (in-season) padrón peppers and a vino tinto or two. Yes, it seemed walking a smidgen of Spain's Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in late May (26 May, to be precise), when it was all wildflowers and long days and holiday-horde free, was the embodiment of right time, right place.

This, of course, is where all travellers want to be, no matter what their cultural or geographical preferences: right time, right place. We all want that sweet serendipity of being there when the Northern Lights are most likely to dance (but, ideally, it's not too chilly); when the sleepy scruff-bucket town transforms for its once-a-year fabulous fiesta; when a mass mob of whales gathers at the nearby reef; when the climate is just perfect for whatever our

chosen adventure. And that's why this book exists – to help you focus your travels, zooming in on precise dates or periods to ensure some of the very best experiences, be they wildlife migrations, active escapades, raucous festivals or cultural showstoppers.

Perhaps you want to know when to pack your picnic for the prettiest Japanese cherry blossom party (26 March, in case you're wondering). Or when best to raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon (try 16 September, the day after motorboats are prohibited for the year). Maybe you want to spend your Christmas break with baby warthogs rather than baby Jesus (try Kenya, 27 December), ride a bobsled in summer rather than winter (Austria, 2 July) or be sure not to miss a biggie, such as Glastonbury (England, 28 June) or messy Tomatina (Spain, 26 August).

**We all want that
sweet serendipity
of being there
when the Northern
Lights are most
likely to dance...**

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED

Or maybe you want to be there (with a good waterproof coat) when the rain is gushing in biblical torrents, thus ensuring waterfalls are at their most spectacular and most other people have stayed away (think Iguazu Falls, 9 December). Perhaps 'right' is being there in shoulder season – say, tramping New Zealand's Milford Track on 10 March – to best balance still-decent weather with fewer crowds.

When you drill down into the calendar year, you can find the world's seasonal secrets, like Vanuatu's land-divers marking the start of the yam season or the brief window of opportunity to trek while listening to the sound of mating pandas. Organising the planet this way helps you pick a destination for that June honeymoon or your October annual leave. You can even use it to inspire your whereabouts on your next birthday.

There's an idea here for every day of the year. Some suggestions are date specific – a religious holiday, a festival, an annual seasonal opening. Some give an indication of the best week, month or timeframe when perhaps it's driest, coolest, quietest or most full of wildebeest. For the date-specific events, we've

There's an idea here for every day of the year. Some suggestions are date specific, others give an indication of the best week or month

pinned them to their 2015 occurrences where possible, with dates given for the following years where known.

Of course, there are myriad options. On any given day, there are many best places to be, many destinations ripe for adventures. But here are 365 goodies to get you started. Now, stop reading this – you shouldn't be HERE. Why not flick forward to 'today' and start planning tomorrow?

SARAH BAXTER

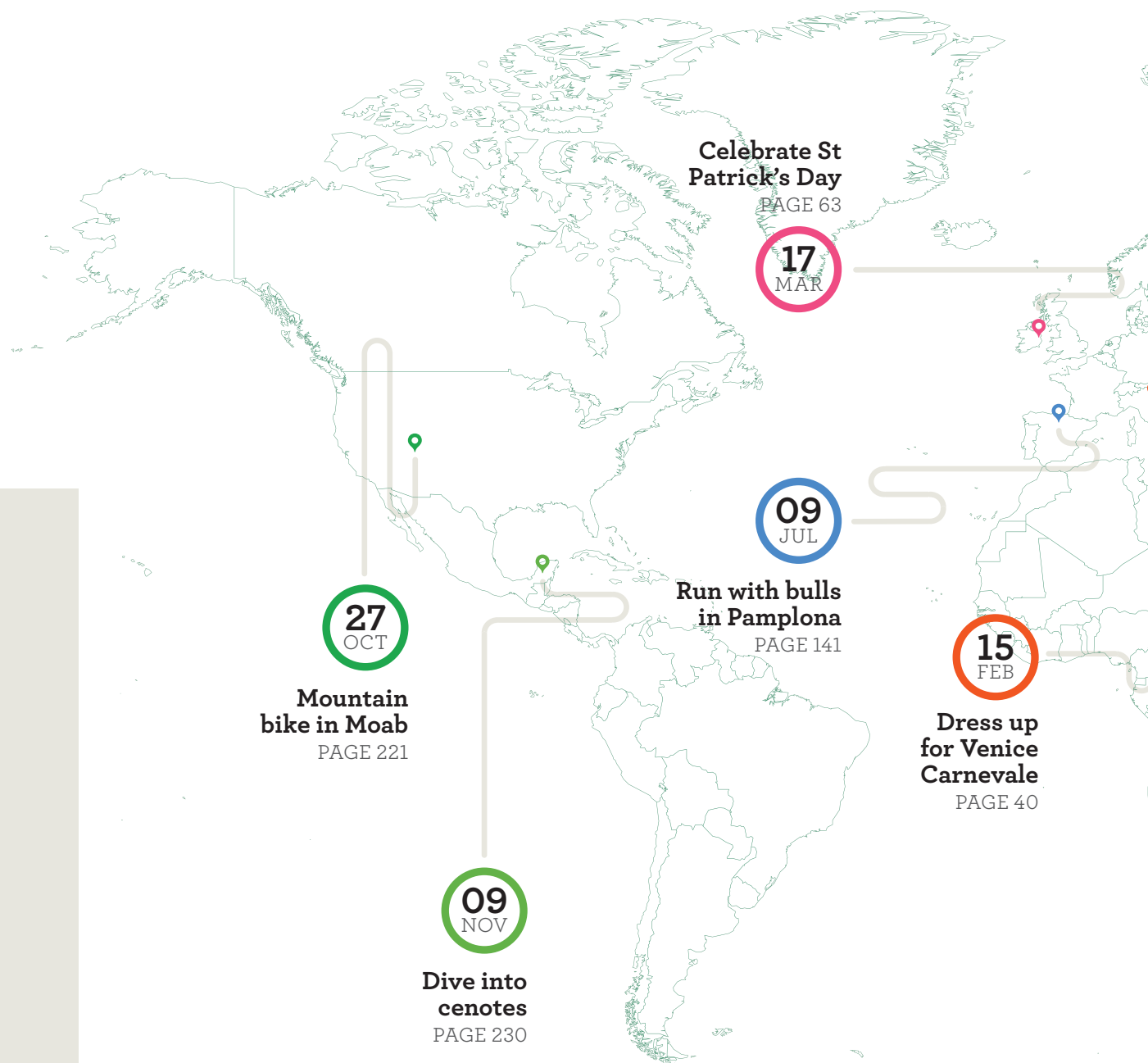
CONTENTS

JANUARY	Page 008	
FEBRUARY	Page 030	
MARCH	Page 050	
APRIL	Page 072	
MAY	Page 094	
JUNE	Page 116	
JULY	Page 136	
AUGUST	Page 158	
SEPTEMBER	Page 180	
OCTOBER	Page 202	
NOVEMBER	Page 224	
DECEMBER	Page 244	





WHERE IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO BE?



**Celebrate St
Patrick's Day**
PAGE 63

17
MAR

**Run with bulls
in Pamplona**
PAGE 141

09
JUL

**Dress up
for Venice
Carnevale**
PAGE 40

15
FEB

**Mountain
bike in Moab**
PAGE 221

27
OCT

**Dive into
cenotes**
PAGE 230

09
NOV

**Make merry
with Mozart**

PAGE 167

13
AUG

**Explore
Wadi Rum**
PAGE 107

20
MAY

**Circuit
Mt Kailash**
PAGE 188

12
SEP

**Party at
Ati-Atihan**
PAGE 20

17
JAN

**Paddle the
Franklin River**
PAGE 263

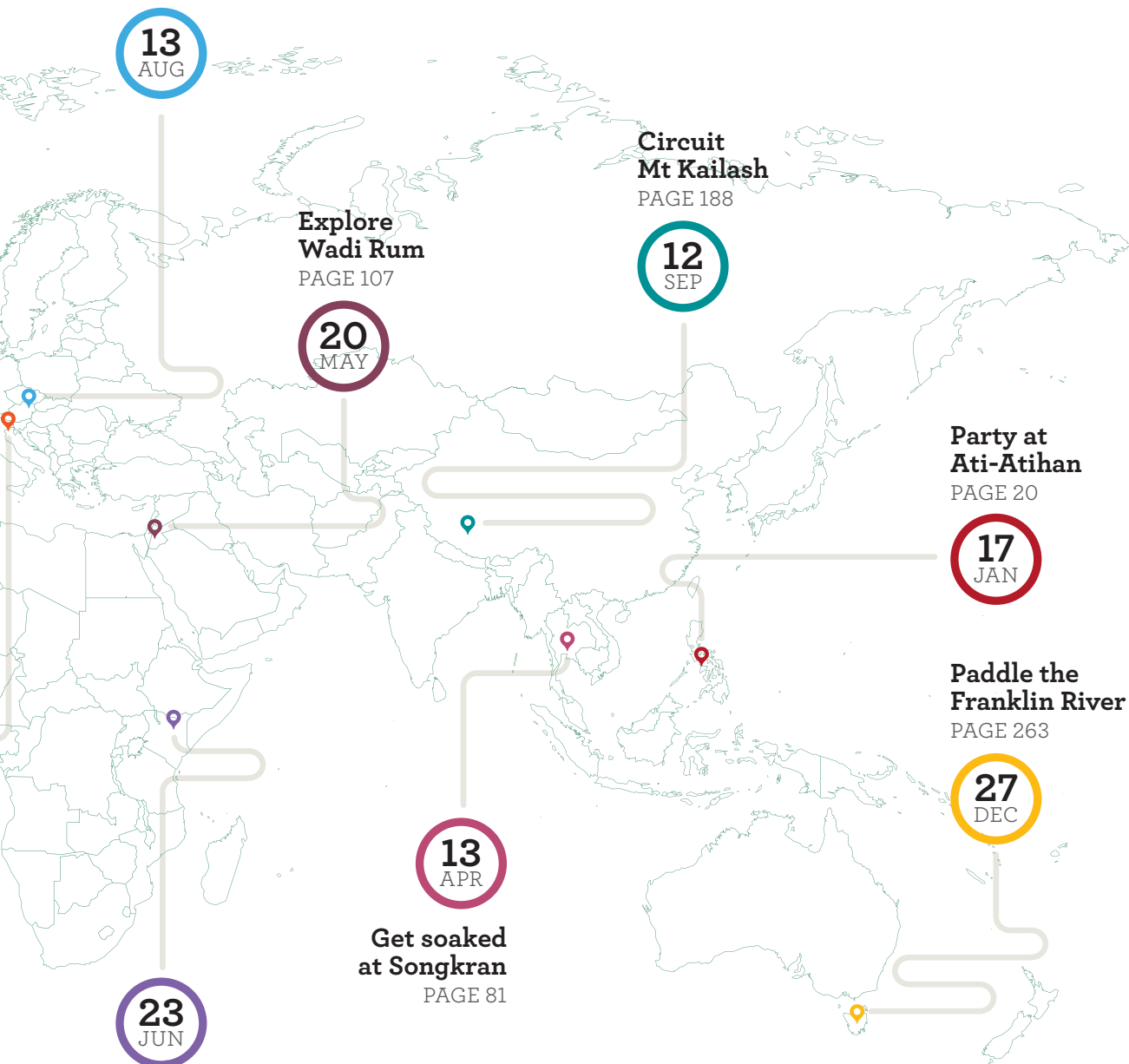
27
DEC

**Get soaked
at Songkran**
PAGE 81

13
APR

23
JUN

**Marvel at a
migration**
PAGE 133



Index



INDEX

A

adventures, activities & sports

BASE jumping 214, 229
boat journeys 37, 77, 106, 120, 157, 196, 232, 249
bobsledding & tobogganing 11, 138
bog snorkelling 179
canyoneering & canyoning 79, 229
cheese-rolling 110
cycle journeys 15, 23, 89, 105, 134, 163, 190, 212
diving & snorkelling 19, 38, 91, 113, 130, 145, 170, 179, 195, 215, 230, 246, 259
gliding & paragliding 71, 213, 217
heli-biking 48
hiking 16-17, 23, 27, 34, 38, 52, 57, 58, 67, 83, 86, 92, 96, 98, 103, 109, 120, 124, 125, 146, 153, 160, 167, 168, 171, 173, 175, 195, 206, 208, 219, 231, 243, 244
horse races 168, 227
horse-riding 101, 112, 129
hot-air ballooning 205
ice-skating 36
kiteboarding 164
kloofing 229
marathons 91, 151
motorcycle travel 155
motorsports 27
mountain-climbing 44, 52, 70, 114, 118, 124, 133, 135, 182, 259
naghol (land diving) 87
rafting & kayaking 106, 120, 188, 191, 209, 229, 232, 243, 254, 263
regattas 127, 185
river-tubing 52
road trips 155, 161, 212
rock climbing & bouldering 91, 255
rodeos 139
sailing 37, 102, 116, 211, 235
skiing 19, 57, 78, 252
skydiving 200
snuba 236
storm-chasing 11, 108, 240
surfing 13, 48, 122, 178
swimming 44, 66, 140, 145, 166
tree-climbing 80
wife-carrying 139
windsurfing 33, 150
Alaska 56, 127, 142
Amazon 60, 163, 182, 210
Anatolia 252
Andalucía 76, 86, 101
Angel Falls 186
Antarctica 11, 35, 146, 249
Argentina 16, 38, 70, 250
Arizona 79, 191
Auckland 52, 229
Australia 13, 38, 46, 66, 70, 80, 98, 121, 144, 161, 213, 222, 227, 263, 264
Austria 18, 138, 167

B

Bahamas 8-9
Baja 32
Bali 65, 122
Barbados 158
Barcelona 196
Batu Caves 33
Banff 222
Bazaruto Archipelago 130
Belém 210
Belgium 41
Belize 38, 52, 114
Benin 15
Bermuda 102
Bhaktapur 82
Bhutan 97, 206
Bhyundar Valley (Valley of Flowers) 160
Binche 41
bird-watching
birds of paradise 156
cranes 22
flamingos 19
Kakadu 222
kea 28
oilbirds 102
Panama 259
penguins 35, 242, 249
Rajasthan 14
seabirds 171, 204
storks 179
Black Rock Desert 176
Black Sea 179
Bolivia 19, 41, 182, 212
Borneo 53, 195
Botswana 41, 105, 180, 191
Brazil 60, 72-73, 210
British Virgin Islands (BVI) 235
Budapest 213
Bulgaria 179

C

Cabarete 33
Calgary 139
California 70, 75, 84, 151, 255
Canada 11, 34, 108, 125, 139, 140, 149, 172, 177, 220, 222
Cannes 105
Canning Stock Route 161
Cape Adere 35
Cape Clear Island 171
Cape Town 10, 71
Cartagena 28
Castrillo de Murcia 121
Cayman Islands 231
Cedars Ski Field 252
Chichén Itzá 65
Chichicastenango 253
Chile 16-17, 57, 244
China 30, 83, 88, 96, 153, 188, 199, 210

Colombia 12, 28, 248
Congo 247
Corsica 195, 217
Costa Rica 45, 166, 206
Cresta Run 11
Croatia 91, 211
Cuba 23, 255
Cumbria 194
Cuzco 132

D

Death Valley 151
Dogon Country 23
Dominican Republic 33
Donsol 44
Dublin 61, 127

E

Ecuador 69, 163, 259
Edinburgh 265
Egypt 15, 37, 235
England 75, 86, 91, 94-95, 110, 130, 135, 140, 155, 185, 194, 228
Estonia 77
Ethiopia 21, 238

F

Falkland Islands 204

festivals & events

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 205
Ati-Atihan 20
Art Deco Weekend 20
Auckland Festival 52
Baby-Jumping Festival 121
Badwater Ultra, the 151
Banff Mountain Film Festival 222
Barcelona Acció Musical 196
Batalla del Vino 135
Bisket Jatra 82
Bounty Day 121
Bovec 120
Braemar Gathering 184
Bridge Day 214
Burning Man Festival 176
Café Budapest Contemporary Arts Festival 213
Camel Cup 144
Cannes Film Festival 105
Cape Minstrel Carnival 10
Carnaval de Negros y Blancos 12
Carnaval de Québec 34
Christmas 247, 258, 260, 261
Cinéma en Plein Air 154
Cirio de Nazaré 210
Coachella Valley Music & Arts Annual Festival 84-85
Coopers Capers 243
Corsa dei Ceri 104

Crop Over 158
 Day of the Dead 224
 Día de las Velitas 248
 Diwali 231
 Edinburgh Festival 169
 Elephant Round-Up 236
 Elvis Week 168
 Fashion Week 185
 Feria de Abril 86
 Feria del Caballo 101
 Festa del Redentore 148
 Festival du Vent 217
 Fête du Citron 49
 Fete Gede 226
 Fiesta de San Fermin (Running of the Bulls) 141
 Fiesta de Santa Marta de Ribarteme 156
 Fiesta de Santo Tomás 253
 Galway Oyster Festival 198
 Gion Matsuri 147
 Glastonbury Music Festival 135
 Guy Fawkes Night 228
 Halloween 223
 hanami (blossom festivals) 68
 Hay Festival 28, 108
 Heiva 150
 Holi 54
 Hogmanay 265
 Holy Week 76
 Icelandic Language Day 235
 Ice & Snow Festival 30
 Iditarod 56
 Il Palio 168
 Independence Day 139
 Inti Raymi 132
 Jazz Fest 90
 Jazz & Heritage Festival 90
 Jidai Matsuri 217
 Junkanoo 8-9
 Kaapse Klopse 10
 Klausjagen 247
 La Diablada 227
 La Pourcailhade 165
 La Tomatina 176
 Lajkonik 124
 Las Fallas 64
 Les Festes de la Mercè 196
 l'Escalade 252
 London Marathon 91
 Maslenitsa 42
 MassKara 213
 Matchmaking Festival 205
 May Day 94
 Mawazine 119
 Melbourne Cup 227
 Melbourne International Comedy Festival 70
 Mevlâna Festival 252
 Moab Ho-Down Bike Festival 221
 Midnight Mass 260
 Mwaka Kogwa 150

Naadam 145
 Northeast Kingdom Fall Foliage Festival 201
 Nyepi 65
 Oktoberfest 202
 Oppikoppi 163
 Oruro Carnaval 41
 Pirate Festival 231
 Plymouth-Banjul Rally 264
 Procession de San Lázaro 255
 Pushkar Camel Fair 241
 Rallye Monte-Carlo 27
 Regata Storica 185
 Riding of the Marches 129
 Rose Festival 98
 Sahara Festival 260
 Saidai-ji Eyô (Naked Festival) 44
 Salzburger Festspiele 167
 Sardine Run 113
 Semana Santa 76
 Snake Festival 97
 South by Southwest 59
 Spartathlon 197
 St Patrick's Day 61
 Starkbierzeit 60
 Tamaki Makaurau 52
 Thaipusam 33
 Thanksgiving 241
 Three Great Float Festivals of Japan 247
 Timkat 21
 Tour d'Afrique 15
 Tour de France 145
 Turnip Festival 233
 Umhlanga (Reed Dance) 183
 Up-Helly-Aa 27
 Valentine's Day 39
 Venice Biennale 100
 Venice Carnevale 40
 Voodoo Festival 15
 Waffle Day 67
 Waisek 97
 Walpurgisnacht 93
 Welcome Whale Wave Walk 195
 White Nights 126
 Woodford Folk Festival 264
 World Bog Snorkelling Championships 179
 World Marble Championships 75
 World Toilet Day 236
 Yamayaki 26
 Fiji 209
 Finland 139, 189, 261
 Florida 232
 Fontainebleau 255
 France 49, 78, 105, 140, 145, 154, 165, 185, 195, 217, 255
 French Riviera 49, 105
 Friendship Highway 88

G
 Gabon 133
 Galápagos Islands 69

Galicia 156
 Galway 198
 Gambia 264
 Geneva 252
 George Town 231
 Germany 60, 93, 202, 258
 Gloucestershire 110
 Glover's Reef 38
 Gombe Stream 86
 Gonder 21
 Grand Canyon 191
 Greece 150, 173, 197
 Greenland 140
 Guatemala 253
 Gujarat 167
 Gulf of Carpentaria 213
 Gulf of Corcovado 57

H
 Haiti 226
 Haro 135
 Haute Route 78
 Hawaii 48, 164, 171
 Hay-on-Wye 108
 Hebrides 215
 Hermanus 195
 Hokkaido 22, 57, 193
 Hong Kong 231
 Honshu 247, 257
 Hungary 213

I
 Ibiza 191
 Iceland 162, 235
 Iguazú Falls 250
 India 14, 34, 119, 155, 160, 167, 231, 234, 236, 241, 248
 Indonesia 65, 97, 105, 122
 Innsbruck 138
 Iran 19, 124
 Ireland 61, 127, 155, 171, 198, 205
 Isla del Coco 166
 Isle of Man 155
 Israel 58
 Italy 39, 40, 78, 97, 100, 104, 127, 130, 148, 168, 182, 185

J
 Japan 22, 26, 44, 57, 68, 80, 118, 147, 193, 217, 247, 257
 Java 97
 Jellyfish Lake 19
 Jinja 254
 John O'Groats 134
 Jordan 83, 107

K
 Kamchatka Peninsula 136
 Kauai 171

INDEX

Kazakhstan 112
Kenya 131, 216, 262
Keukenhof 89
Krakow 124
Küssnacht 247
Kyoto 147, 217
Kyrgyzstan 175

L

Ladakh 34, 155
Lago de Maracaibo 240
Laguna Colorado 19
Lake Mälaren 36
Lake Titicaca 227
Lake Zürich 233
Land's End 134
Lapland 189, 261
Lebanon 252
Lefkada 150
Lesotho 200
Lima 221
Lisbon 124
Lobamba 183
Lofoten Islands 133
London 91, 185
Luzon 196

M

Madagascar 173
Malaysia 33, 53, 195
Maldives 185
Mali 23
Manitoba 108, 220
Masai Mara 216
Matura Beach 58
Maui 164
Mauritius 236
Melbourne 70, 227
Memphis 168
Mendoza 38
Menton 49
Mexico 43, 54-55, 65, 178, 224, 230
Miami 20
Micronesia 19, 259
Milan 185
Moab 221
Monaco 27
Mongolia 145
Monte Carlo 27
Montenegro 106
Monterey Bay 75
Montserrat 60
Morocco 98, 119
Moscow 42

mountains & peaks

100 Mountains 118
Aconcagua 38
Adam's Peak 28
Alborz Mountains 19, 124

Annapurnas 208
Cotopaxi 259
Croagh Patrick 155
El Capitan's Nose 70
French Alps 145
Harz Mountains 93
Huá Shān 153
Fansipan 67
Karakoram Mountains 146
Kopra Ridge 208
Mt Damavand 124
Mt Elbrus 135
Mt Everest 114, 200
Mt Kailash 188
Mt Kilimanjaro 44
Mt Olympus 173
Mt Wakakusa-yama 26
Roraima 27
Rwenzori Mountains 52
Serengeti National Park 33
Simien Mountains 238
Svolværgeita 133
Tian Shan Range 175
Tombstone Range 177
Mozambique 130
Munich 60, 202

N

Namibia 121
Nassau 8
national parks, reserves & sanctuaries
Abernethy Forest 80
Addo Elephant National Park 67
Aksu-Dzhabagly Nature Reserve 112
Amboseli National Park 262
Año Nuevo State Reserve 255
Arthur's Pass National Park 28
Bialowieza National Park 83
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park 25
Canaima National Park 27, 186
Catatumbo National Park 240
Chang Tang Nature Reserve 210
Chobe National Park 180
Community Baboon Sanctuary 114
Corbett National Park 119
Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park 46
Daisetsuzan National Park 193
Dolomites, the 182
Durmitor National Park 106
El Rosario Butterfly Sanctuary 43
Eungella National Park 38
Everglades National Park 232
Fauna Silvestre Ostional Refuge 206
Gunung Mulu National Park 195
Iguazú National Park 250
Jigokudani Monkey Park 257
Kakadu 222
Kasanka National Park 237
Katmai National Park 142

Kaziranga National Park 234
Keoladeo Ghana National Park 14
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park 41
Komodo National Park 105
Kruger National Park 103
Loango National Park 133
Madidi National Park 182
Mashatu Game Reserve 105
Moremi Game Reserve 191
Mujib Nature Reserve 83
Ningaloo Marine Park 66
Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park 247
Paklenica National Park 91
Sinhharaja National Park 74
Soberania National Park 259
Soomaa National Park 77
South Luangwa National Park 99
Sunderbans Tiger Reserve 248
Tallgrass Prairie Preserve 102
Walrus Islands Sanctuary 127
Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary 167
Wolong Nature Reserve 83
Wrangel Island Reserve 157
Yala National Park 50-51
Yellowstone National Park 29
Yosemite National Park 70, 123
Nepal 82, 88, 114, 200, 208
Netherlands 89
Nevada 176
New Caledonia 215
New Delhi 236
New Mexico 205
New Orleans 90
New York City 185, 223, 241
New Zealand 28, 48, 52, 57, 91, 229
Newfoundland 140
Ngorongoro 210
Norfolk Island 121
North Korea 77
Norway 133, 189, 246
Nunavut 149
Nuremberg 258

O

Oahu 48
Oaxaca 178, 224
Okayama 44
Oklahoma 102
Ölüdeniz 217
Oruro 41
Ouidah 15
Oxford 94

P

Pakistan 146
Palau 19
Pamplona 141
Panama 259
Pantanal 72

Pape'ete 150
 Papua New Guinea 156, 168
 Paria Canyon 79
 Paris 154, 185
 Pasto 12
 Patagonia 16-17, 244
 Pemberton 80
 Pembrokeshire 167
 Pentecost Island 87
 Peru 109, 132, 221
 Philippines 20, 44, 196, 213
 Pisa 127
 Poland 83, 124
 Poor Knights 91
 Port-au-Prince 226
 Portugal 124
 Powys 108, 179
 Pyongyang 77

Q

Québec 34

R

Rabat 119
 Rajasthan 14, 241
 Réunion 115
 Reykjavík 235

rivers

Caves Branch River 52
 Colorado River 191
 Franklin River 263
 Gauley River 188
 Nile River 37, 254
 Pagsanjan River 196
 Río Catatumbo 240
 Soča River 120
 Tara River 106
 Zambezi River 243
 Zanskar River 34
 Russia 42, 126, 135, 136, 157, 189

S

Salzburg 167
 Scotland 27, 80, 129, 169, 184, 215, 265
 Selçuk 20
 Selkirk 129
 Seville 76, 86
 Shetland Islands 27
 Shikoku 80
 Sinai Peninsula 235
 Slovenia 120
 Somerset 135
 Sonkajärvi 139
 South Africa 10, 15, 41, 67, 71, 103, 113, 145, 163, 195, 219, 229
 South Georgia 242
 Spain 64, 76, 86, 112, 121, 135, 141, 156, 176, 191, 196
 Sri Lanka 28, 50, 74
 St Moritz 11
 St Petersburg 126

Stonehenge 130
 Suicide Gorge 229
 Sussex 75, 228
 Swaziland 183
 Sweden 36, 67, 189
 Switzerland 11, 78, 233, 247, 252

T

Tahiti 150
 Tanzania 33, 44, 86, 131, 150, 210
 Tennessee 168
 Texas 59, 160
 Thailand 81, 236, 243
 Tibet 89, 188, 210
 Tiger Leaping Gorge 96
 Tonga 170
 Tornado Alley 108
 Trinidad 58
 Turkey 20, 92, 116, 217, 252
 Tuscany 168
 Tysfjord 246

U

Uganda 25, 52, 254
 Ulaanbaatar 145
 Umbria 39, 104
 USA 29, 48, 56, 59, 70, 75, 79, 84, 90, 102, 108, 123, 127, 139, 142, 151, 160, 164, 168, 171, 176, 185, 188, 191, 201, 205, 214, 221, 223, 232, 241, 243, 255
 Utah 79, 221

V

Valdés Peninsula 70
 Valencia 64, 176
 Vancouver Island 11, 125
 Vanuatu 87
 Vatican City 260
 Venezuela 27, 102, 186, 240
 Venice 40, 100, 148, 185
 Vermont 201
 Verona 130
 Victoria Falls 243
 Vienna 18
 Vietnam 67, 207

W

Wadi Rum 107
 Wales 108, 167, 179, 190
walking trails
 88 Temple Circuit 80
 Camino de Santiago 112
 Hoerikwaggo Trail 219
 Inca Trail 109
 Israel National Trail 58
 Kalalau Trail 171
 Kokoda Track 168
 Larapinta Trail 98
 Lycian Way 92
 Milford Track 57

Snowman Trek 206
 South West Coast Path 86
 Torres del Paine 244
 Wadi Mujib 83
 West Coast Trail 125
 Washington 243
 West Virginia 188, 214

wildlife-watching

bats 160, 195, 237
 bears 142-143, 220
 bison 83, 102
 buffalo 216
 butterflies 43
 camels 20, 241, 260
 cheetahs 33
 chimpanzees 86
 deer 215
 dugongs 188
 elephants 50, 180, 236
 giraffes 99
 gorillas 25, 247
 hippopotamuses 133
 Komodo dragons 105
 leopards 50, 97
 marine life 66, 113, 173, 229
 meerkats 67
 migrations 113, 131, 179, 195, 246
 monkeys 114, 257
 otters 75
 pandas 83
 platypuses 38
 rhinoceroses 234
 safaris 41, 103, 105, 119, 210
 seals 255
 sharks 44, 145, 155, 166, 185, 259
 snakes 108
 squirrels 80
 Tasmanian devils 46
 tigers 119, 248
 turtles 53, 58, 206
 warthogs 262
 whales 32, 57, 70, 140, 149, 170, 172, 195, 246
 wild dogs 191
 wildebeest 131
 wolves 29
 Woodford 264

Y

Yap 259
 Yasawa Islands 209
 Yucatán 65, 230

Z

Zambia 99, 237, 243
 Zanzibar 150

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