



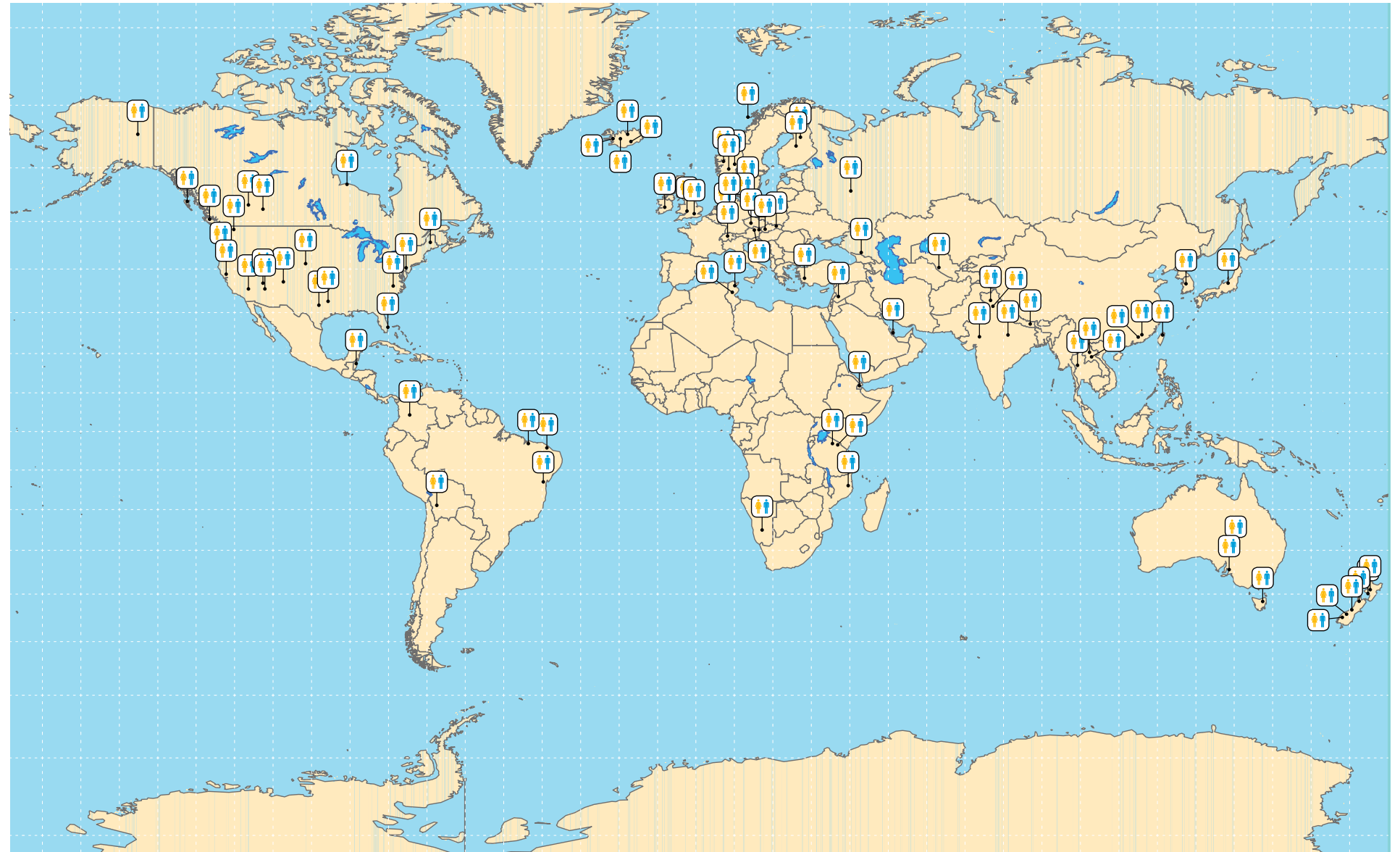
## Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the ultimate toilet book.

As any experienced traveller knows, you can tell a whole lot about a place by its bathrooms. Whatever you prefer to call them – lavatory, loo, bog, khasi, thunderbox, dunny, washroom or water closet – toilets are a (sometimes opaque, often wide-open) window into the secret soul of a destination.

It's not just how well they're looked after that's revealing, but where they are positioned and the way they've been conceptualised, designed and decorated. Toilets so often transcend their primary function of being a convenience to become a work of art in their own right, or to make a cultural statement about the priorities, traditions and values of the venues, locations and communities they serve.

The lavatory is a great leveller – everyone feels the call of nature, every day – but, like any common species, being ubiquitous doesn't make it uniform. Around the planet (and beyond it, see page 12) toilets have followed various evolutionary pathways to best suit their environment.

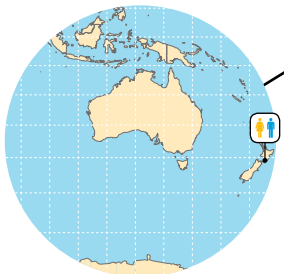
In these pages you'll find porcelain pews with fantastic views, audacious attention-seeking urban outhouses, and eco-thrones made from sticks and stones in all sorts of wild settings, from precipitous mountain peaks to dusty deserts. So, wherever you're reading this, we hope you're sitting comfortably.





## **Lobster loos,** **Wellington,** **New Zealand**

Spend a penny? Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, spent NZ\$375,000 on architect Bret Thurston's boggly-eyed design for the public lavatories on the city's windswept waterfront. It is hoped that the two tentacles, armoured in orange steel, will attract tourists to Wellington, though it's a long way to go.





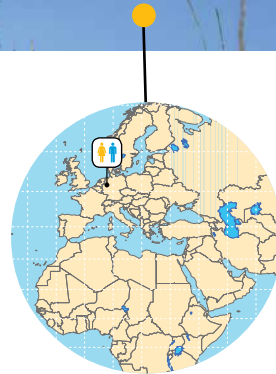
N 51° 21' E 7° 37''



**'Between  
the Waters',  
Emscherkunst,  
Germany**

In true Teutonic unflinching fashion, the Between the Waters installation in Emscherkunst, Germany, follows waste water from several sources – including twin toilets dramatically

suspended above the highly polluted Emscher River – through the cleansing and recycling process to... a water fountain. Have a sip. We dare you.



N 40° 44' 26.7072'' W 74° 0' 28.5228''



**Meatpacking  
district,  
New York City,  
USA**

Manhattan's Meatpacking District has experienced an extraordinary evolution in the last half-century – the former home of the city's slaughterhouses saw some seedy subcultures sprout

during the hedonistic 1980s, but now it's NYC's hippest 'hood, full of trendy clubs and bistros, like the Standard Grill, where you'll find this mind-bending bog.







## **Barafu Camp,** **Tanzania**

Squatting on the edge of a cliff, 4600m up the flanks of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the Barafu Camp khazi takes the concept of a long-drop toilet to an elevated level. *Pole pole* (slowly, slowly) is the standard mantra when climbing Africa's highest peak, but that adage doesn't apply here.







## **'Comfort toilets', Chott el Djerid, Tunisia**

Chott el Djerid, a large salt lake in southern Tunisia, was used as the setting for Luke Skywalker's boyhood home in the original *Star Wars* film. The Lars' subterranean homestead may have been destroyed, but the Galactic Empire failed to extinguish the new hope represented by these roadside 'comfort' toilets.





## Safe Haven Orphanage, Ban Tha Song Yang, Thailand

A seemingly simple toilet block forms an unlikely cultural connection between a rural orphanage in Ban Tha Song Yang, Thailand, and a high-tech architectural firm from Trondheim, Norway. Conceived by 15 student architects engaged in a workshop held by TYIN, the Safe Haven sanitary station was built by local Karen people.



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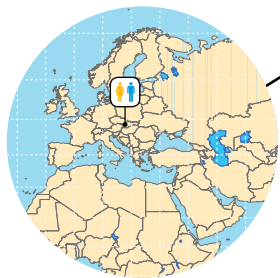




N 48° 8' 11.8176'' E 17° 6' 16.8264''

## Gents' toilets, UFO Bar, Bratislava, Slovakia

Before being reinvented as a restaurant, the flying-saucer-shaped building that now houses UFO in Bratislava, Slovakia was a Soviet-built observation tower, positioned to have a commanding view of the Danube. This vista can be enjoyed by everyone visiting the venue, but only gents can see it from this bucketlist angle.



© COLINGRANGER / 500PX

S 12° 34' 40.5624'' W 38° 0' 7.0344''



© SHEYNE LUDOCK / 500PX

## Gaudi-style toilets, Bahia, Brazil

Gaudi-style toilet blocks are a surprise addition to a sprawling Brazilian beach resort like Bahia's Praia do Forte, but they're just one of many modern additions

that combine to confuse leatherback turtles that have nested here for thousands of years. Fortunately, a local sanctuary looks out for the bewildered beasts.





## Segantini hut restroom, Switzerland

Austrian-born 19th-century painter Giovanni Segantini lived his last years in a St Moritz alpine aerie now known as Segantini Hut, capturing the Swiss peaks with his palette. The hut, perched at 2731m (8960ft), is currently a lodge, where visitors to the iconic outhouse enjoy eye-watering valley views of the Engadine.

