



## January

**P8-31**

Uganda  
Florida, USA  
Lanzarote & Fuerteventura  
Slovenia  
Switzerland  
British Columbia, Canada  
Budapest, Hungary  
Tasmania, Australia  
Ethiopia  
Serengeti, Tanzania  
Transylvania, Romania  
Sydney, Australia  
Trans-Siberian Railway  
Colombia  
Grenada  
Eastern Poland  
Bulgaria  
Myanmar (Burma)  
Catlins Coast, New Zealand  
Honshu, Japan  
Kerala, India  
Vienna, Austria  
Andaman Coast, Thailand  
Lord Howe Island, Australia  
Botswana  
Guatemala  
Antarctic Peninsula  
Colorado, USA  
St Lucia  
Wellington, New Zealand



## February

**P32-55**

Iceland  
Lapland, Finland  
Andorra  
Ibiza, Spain  
The Gambia  
Michoacán, Mexico  
Dominican Republic  
South Island, New Zealand  
Ladakh, India  
Indian Ocean, Kenya  
Wyoming, USA  
Southern Portugal  
Québec City, Canada  
Cape Verde  
Dominica  
Donsol, Philippines  
Daylesford, Australia  
Cambodia  
Kilimanjaro, Tanzania  
Hokkaido, Japan  
Adelaide, Australia  
Singapore  
Côte d'Azur, France  
Gold Coast, Australia  
Honduras  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Haiti  
Blue Mountains, Australia  
Mendoza, Argentina  
Venice, Italy



## March

**P56-79**

Sicily, Italy  
North Wales, UK  
Maldives  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Republic of Cyprus  
San Diego, USA  
Tyrol, Austria  
Bay of Islands, New Zealand  
Mallorca, Spain  
Chile  
Peninsular Malaysia  
Iguazú Falls, Brazil & Argentina  
Crete, Greece  
Banff & Lake Louise, Canada  
Myeik Archipelago, Myanmar  
Costa Rica  
Barossa Valley, Australia  
Vietnam  
Sichuan, China  
Antigua  
Canberra, Australia  
Savannah, USA  
Madhya Pradesh, India  
Baja California, Mexico  
Valencia, Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Austin, USA  
Victoria's High Country, Australia  
Western Cape, South Africa  
South Island, New Zealand



## April

**P80-103**

Jordan  
Panama  
Luzon, Philippines  
Rome, Italy  
Hawke's Bay, New Zealand  
Alps, France & Switzerland  
Palau  
California, USA  
Belize  
Lake District, England  
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Yangtze, China  
Taranaki, New Zealand  
Vanuatu  
South West Australia  
Appalachian Trail, USA  
Thailand  
Nepal  
Brussels, Belgium  
Washington, DC, USA  
Melbourne, Australia  
Andalucía, Spain  
Arnhem Land, Australia  
St Lucia  
Galápagos Islands, Ecuador  
Hawaii, USA  
Japan  
Mauritius  
Boston, USA



## May

**P104-127**

Montenegro  
Abruzzo, Italy  
Bermuda  
Samoa  
Uzbekistan  
Komodo & Flores, Indonesia  
Réunion  
Amalfi Coast, Italy  
Peru  
Morocco  
North Island, New Zealand  
Cornwall, England  
Loire Valley, France  
West Coast, Norway  
Northern Queensland, Australia  
Cappadocia, Turkey  
Israel  
Cuba  
Orient Express, Europe  
Newfoundland, Canada  
Red Centre, Australia  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Southern Namibia  
Route 66, USA  
Inside Passage, USA & Canada  
Galicia, Spain  
Skye, Scotland  
Deep South, USA  
Costa Rica  
Las Vegas, USA



## June

**P128-151**

Iran  
Albania  
Netherlands Antilles  
Slovenia  
Armenia  
Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique  
Ningaloo Reef, Australia  
Darwin, Australia  
Normandy, France  
Bali & Lombok, Indonesia  
Malaysian Borneo  
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Dubrovnik, Croatia  
Pacific Northwest, USA  
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St Petersburg, Russia  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Yosemite National Park, USA  
Bora Bora, French Polynesia  
South Luangwa, Zambia  
Greenland  
Jamaica  
Mount Cook, New Zealand  
Orkney, Scotland  
Verona, Italy





July

P152-175

Mongolia  
Svalbard, Norway  
Kangaroo Island, Australia  
The Baltic  
Suffolk, England  
Ionian Islands, Greece  
Michigan, USA  
Alaska, USA  
Netherlands  
Bosnia Hercegovina  
Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland  
Okavango Delta, Botswana  
Himalaya, India  
Pantanal, Brazil  
Hunter Valley, Australia  
The Dolomites, Italy  
Azores  
Japan  
Zanzibar, Tanzania  
Marquesas, French Polynesia  
Antigua  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Black Forest, Germany  
The Ghan, Australia  
South Island, New Zealand  
Northern England  
Alps, Austria  
Alberta, Canada  
Dordogne, France  
Philadelphia, USA



August

P176-199

Iceland  
Zambia  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
Ko Samui, Thailand  
Champagne, France  
Snowy Mountains, Australia  
Tonga  
Umbria, Italy  
Malawi  
Pembrokeshire, Wales  
Masai Mara, Kenya  
Kimberley, Australia  
Northeast Sri Lanka  
Spanish Pyrenees  
Nova Scotia, Canada  
Cook Islands  
UK's canals  
Ecuador  
Santiago & Ski Fields, Chile  
Chesapeake Bay, USA  
Angel Falls, Venezuela  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Northeast Brazil  
Madagascar  
Mt Ruapehu, New Zealand  
Turquoise Coast, Turkey  
California Zephyr, USA  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Papua New Guinea  
Berlin, Germany



September

P200-223

Georgia  
North Cyprus  
South Korea  
North Island, New Zealand  
Guyana  
Mont Blanc, Europe  
Moselle Valley, Germany  
Northern Kenya  
Běijīng & the Great Wall, China  
Sumatra & Java, Indonesia  
Whitsunday Islands, Australia  
Corsica, France  
Madeira, Portugal  
Silk Road, Central Asia  
Costa Brava, Spain  
Cotswolds, England  
Tibet  
South Africa  
Bohuslän Coast, Sweden  
Vermont, USA  
Munich, Germany  
Dublin, Ireland  
The Cyclades, Greece  
San Francisco, USA  
Provence, France  
Lima, Peru  
Kakadu & Nitmiluk, Australia  
Arizona & Utah, USA  
Puglia, Italy  
Christchurch, New Zealand



October

P224-247

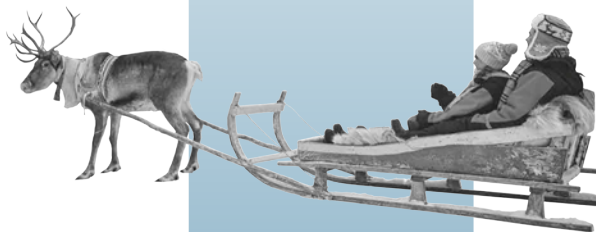
Vietnam  
Fiji  
Moab, USA  
Bolivia  
Great Southern, Australia  
Costa Verde, Brazil  
Piedmont, Italy  
Oman  
Seychelles  
New Mexico, USA  
Porto & the Douro, Portugal  
Southwest China  
Blue Ridge Parkway, USA  
Darjeeling, India  
Flinders Ranges, Australia  
Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand  
Namibia  
Bhutan  
Manitoba, Canada  
Copper Canyon, Mexico  
Slovakia  
Lyon, France  
Northern Tanzania  
Peloponnese, Greece  
Southern Jordan  
La Rioja, Spain  
Liguria, Italy  
Highlands, Scotland  
Taiwan  
New York City, USA



November

P248-271

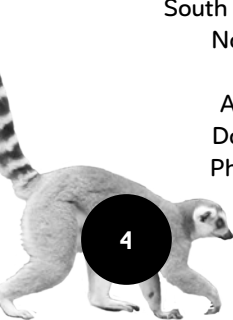
South Africa  
Goa, India  
Cayman Islands  
Simien Mountains, Ethiopia  
Puerto Rico  
British Virgin Islands  
Grampians, Australia  
Auckland & Northland, New Zealand  
Ruta Maya, Guatemala, Belize & Mexico  
Rajasthan & the Golden Triangle, India  
Costa Rica  
Tokyo & Honshu, Japan  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Valletta, Malta  
Uruguay  
Florida, USA  
Oregon, USA  
Barbados  
Dunedin, New Zealand  
Ruka, Finland  
Nepal  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Hong Kong, China  
Athens & Evia, Greece  
Northern Thailand  
Sunshine Coast, Australia  
Mekong, Indochina  
North Chile  
Nicaragua  
Madrid, Spain



December

P272-295

Arctic Sweden  
Southern Amazon, Peru  
Ethiopia  
Ras Al Khaimah, UAE  
Jasper, Canada  
Tenerife, Spain  
Bath, England  
Alta, USA  
Tasmania, Australia  
San Sebastián, Spain  
Similan Islands, Thailand  
Glacier Express, Switzerland  
Southern Patagonia, Chile & Argentina  
Micronesia  
Whanganui River, New Zealand  
Breckenridge, USA  
West Coast Malaysia  
Senegal  
Laos  
Sierra Leone  
Sahara Desert, Morocco  
Andaman Islands, India  
Havana, Cuba  
Tallinn, Estonia  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
Southern Vietnam  
Sapphire Coast, Australia  
Trinidad  
St Vincent & the Grenadines  
Scotland  
New Orleans, USA





# INTRODUCTION

→ We'd so nearly booked to come in early June. I'd thought: that'll be nice, surely? Start of summer, decent weather before the crowds descend, no? Well, not quite. As we sat sipping grappa on a high, sunny terrace, with a view of the spiky Dolomites spearing a cloudless blue sky, I was glad we'd waited until the start of July. By now, unlike in early June, the salubrious, red-gingham mountain huts and handy cablecars were all open for business; the high passes were mostly free of snow; the multifarious activities were all available; the wildflowers were rampant. Yet it still wasn't busy. We raised our little glasses again. Saluti! A local toast to perfect timing.

Of course, if we were ski buffs, our timing would have been completely wrong. In that case, February or March would have been our months for these north Italian slopes; then, the winter chill is less fierce and the powder is at its best. But different strokes for different folks. Which is where this book comes in.

'Where to go when?' is the most important question in travel. Maybe there's an experience you're desperate to have, and you want to make sure you have it when the conditions and circumstances are just right. For instance, there's no point dreaming of Peru's Inca Trail, then turning up without a permit in February (when it's closed) or July-August (when it's busiest).

Or maybe you have set dates for your next holiday – stuck with two weeks in October? With such restrictions, you need to know which destinations will offer your desired sun, sights, surf or wildlife-sightings when you're free to visit (FYI, try Greece, Jordan, Fiji and Namibia respectively).



Either way, this book will give you options and advice – and maybe make you consider places you've never considered before. Indeed, it's particularly suited to the confused or inspiration-seeking traveller. The book is divided into 12 chapters, one for every month, and at the start of each, we've included a handy flowchart. Answer the questions and follow the strands to help drill down the type of trip you want: do you want to chill out or challenge yourself? Do you want to find cultural sites, active exploits or your inner self? Do you want a quiet beach or a crazy one? We'll give you a wealth of ideas.

We've selected 360 places that cover all bases, from family-friendly escapes to hardcore adventures and plenty in between. And we'll tell you when are the best times to visit each one: maybe because it's hosting a mustn't-miss festival; because it's cheaper and calmer before peak season; because it's when the manta rays/polar bears/butterflies are in town; because the weather is just so very good. Whatever type of trip you're looking for, whichever month you can get away, and whether you're a hammock-swinging, hiker, biker, gourmand, rail-lover, roadtripper or raver, we'll tell you exactly where to go.

**By Sarah Baxter & Paul Bloomfield**

(L) The Dolomites in summer; (R) Machu Picchu; rumba drummers in Havana





# January

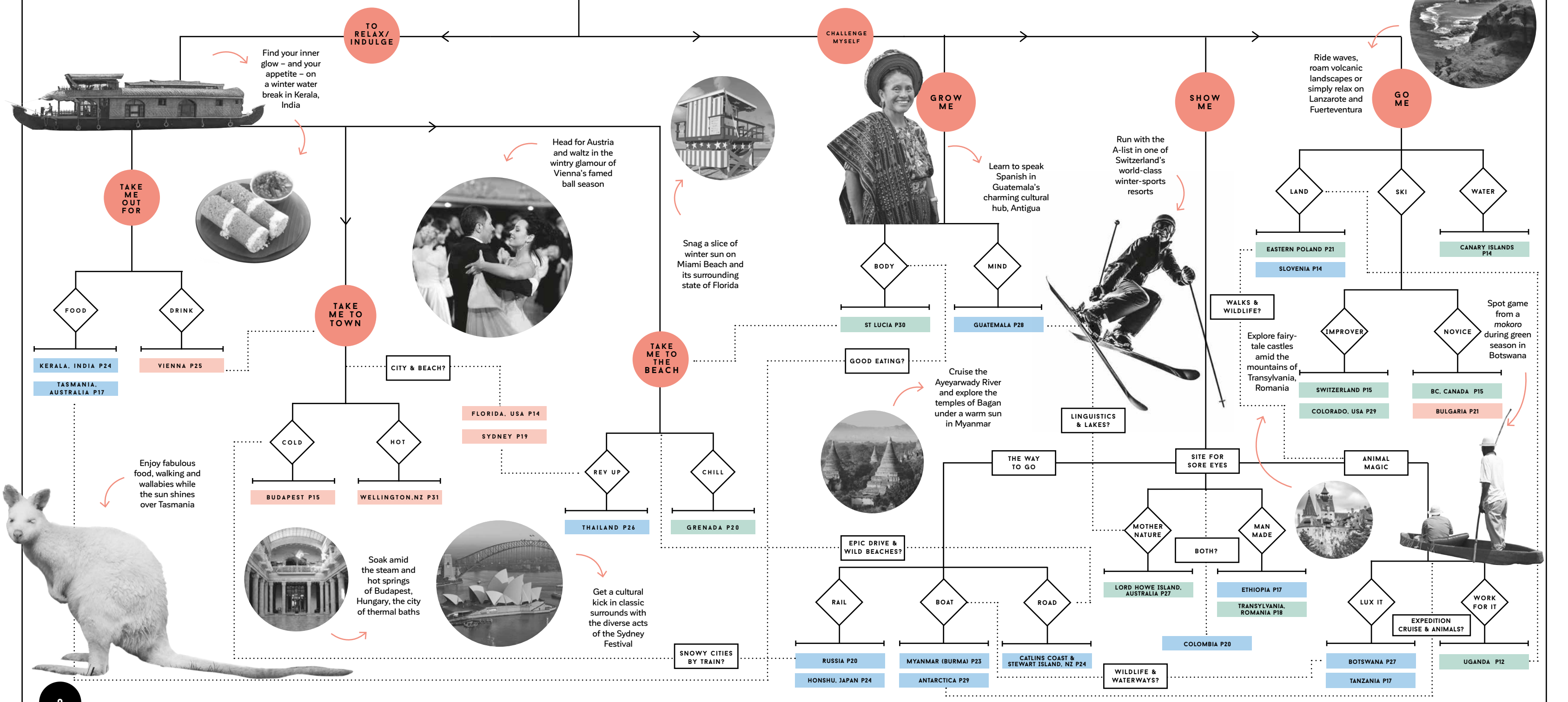
WHERE TO GO WHEN

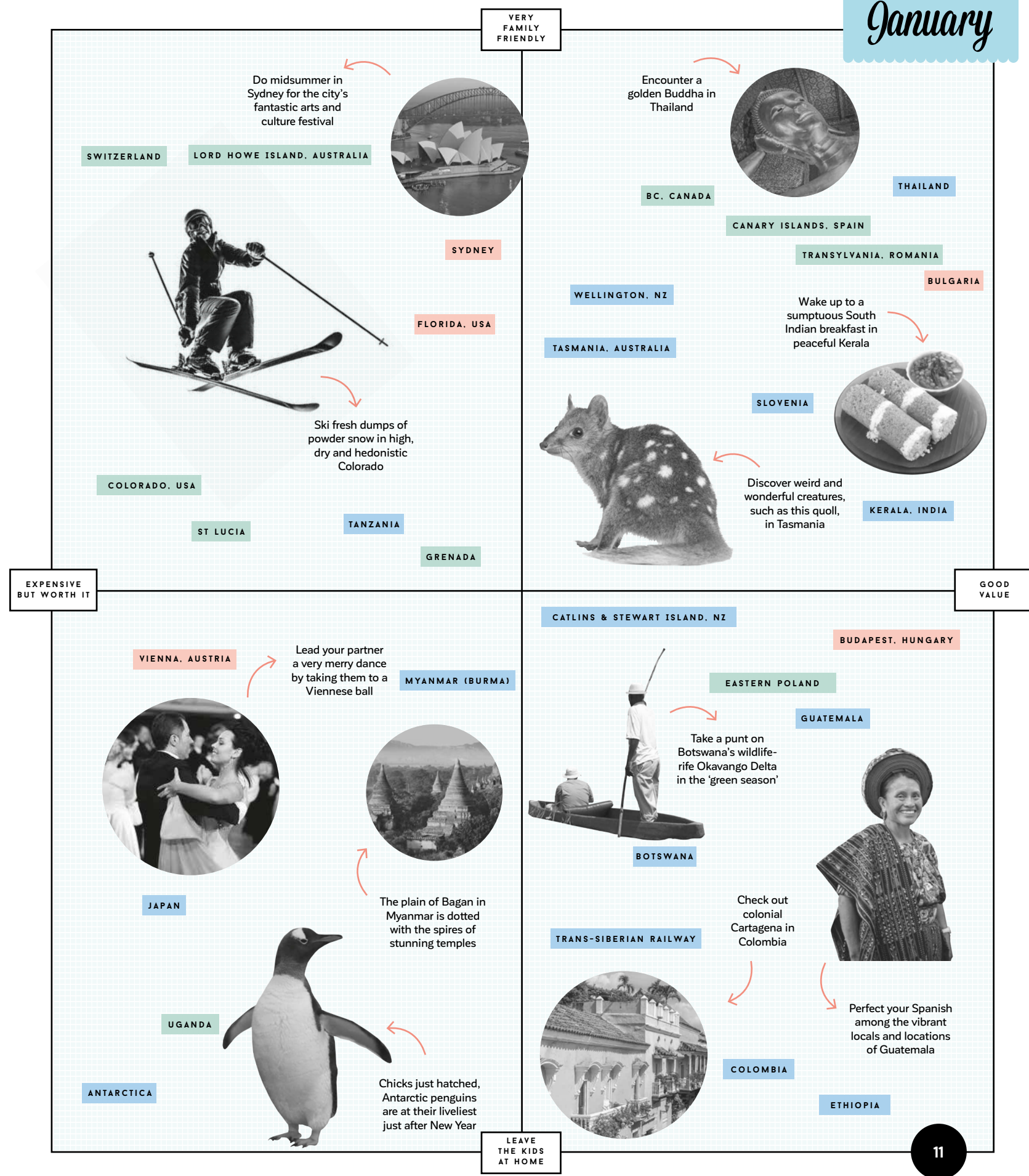
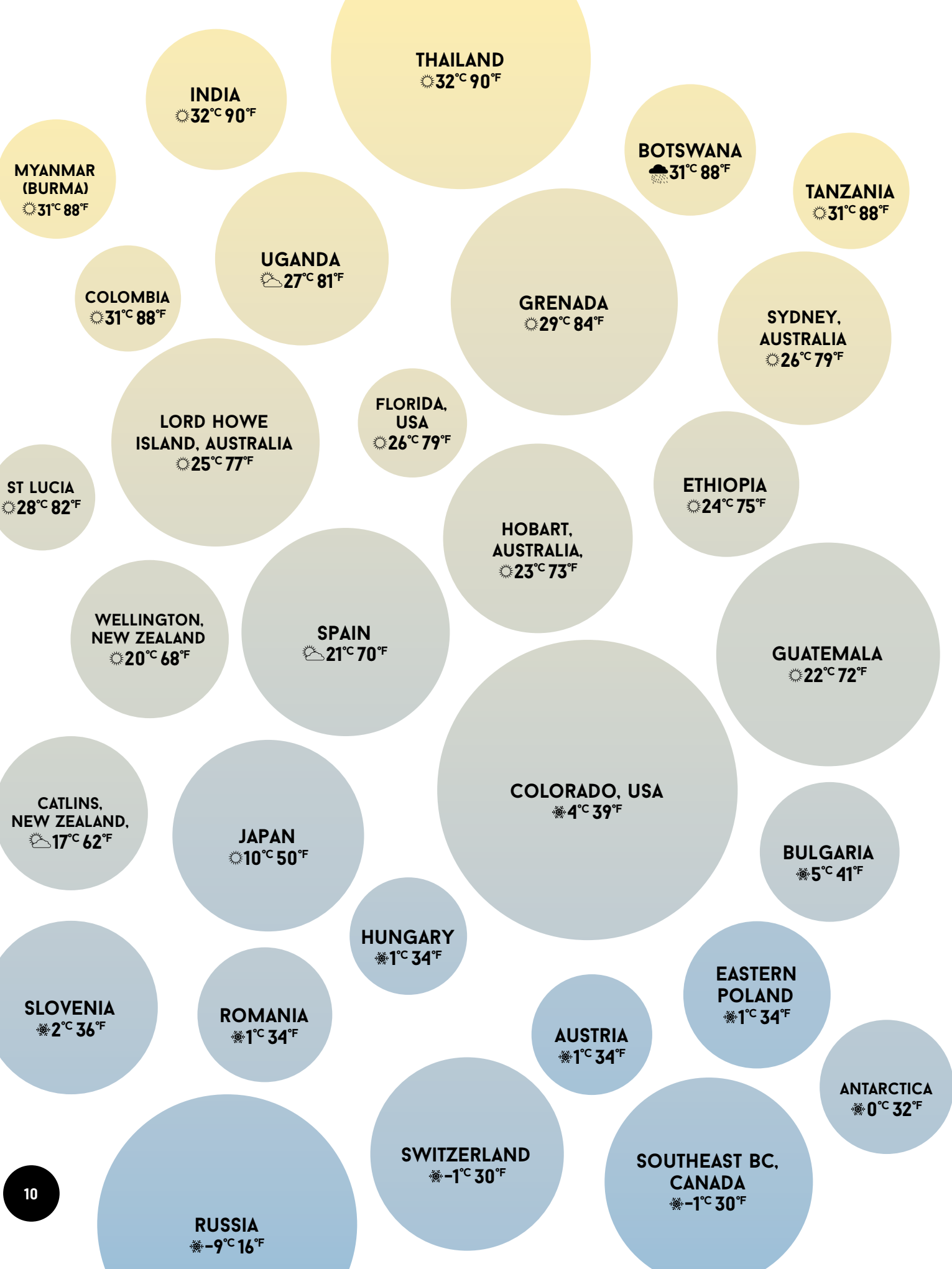
I WANT TO

**KEY**

WILDLIFE & NATURE
 ADVENTURE
 VALUE
 CULTURAL
 JOURNEY
 FOOD & DRINK
 PERSONAL GROWTH
 RELAXATION

SHORT BREAK
ONE WEEK
TWO WEEK







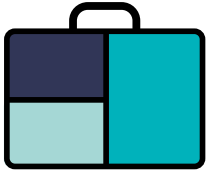
The granite peaks  
within Torres Del Paine  
National Park, Chile



## GLACIER EXPRESS SWITZERLAND



→ Why now? Ride the world's most scenic railway. In a country famed for efficiency, the idea of boarding a train that takes over seven hours to travel a mere 180 miles (290km) seems crazy. Yet the narrow-gauge line between Zermatt and St Moritz – billed as 'Europe's slowest express' – does just that, and passengers revel in the pace. The scenery that glides past the picture-windowed panoramic coaches is sensational, starting with the 14,692ft (4478m) Matterhorn, passing snow-clad firs and the lovely Matter, Rhône and Rhine valleys, cute villages and hilltop castles such as Reichenau, and crossing the lofty Landwasser Viaduct before pulling in at chichi ski resort of St Moritz. The magnificent Alps landscape is at its most spectacular in winter – with the bonus of fantastic skiing at both ends.



Journey  
Wildlife & nature  
Adventure

The Glacier Express  
winding its way  
through a Swiss  
winter wonderland

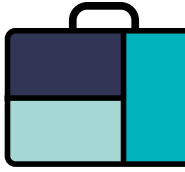
**Trip plan:** The Glacier Express departs around 9am daily from both Zermatt and St Moritz. Seat reservations are mandatory, even if you have a Swiss rail pass. Book in advance at [www.glacierexpress.ch/en](http://www.glacierexpress.ch/en). **Need to know:** Keen to continue your Swiss rail odyssey? Board the Unesco-listed Bernina Express at St Moritz, a 90-mile (145km), four-hour ride across 196 bridges and through 55 tunnels to Tirano in Italy. **Other months:** Mid-Dec–Apr – winter timetable (one departure daily); May–Oct – summer timetable (three departures).

© Matt Munro / Lonely Planet

## SOUTHERN PATAGONIA CHILE & ARGENTINA



→ Why now? Go to the wild ends of the Earth as spring turns to summer. Jagged peaks, gargantuan glaciers, pumas stalking guanacos across vast landscapes – everything is epic in South America's uttermost reaches. Including the weather: you don't want to mess with Patagonia in the austral winter. Come in December, as spring slips into summer but before peak tourist season bites. Top billing goes to Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, which demands to be explored on foot, on the eight-day circuit or four-day 'W' trek for views of the granite towers and Los Cuernos (the 'horns'). In Argentina, 197ft-high (60m) Perito Moreno Glacier calves massive icebergs, while south of the 'Land of Fire', Tierra del Fuego, the Americas finally peter out at Cape Horn. **Trip plan:** For a two- or three-week itinerary, fly from Santiago to Puerto Montt and board the Navimag ferry for a four-day cruise through fjords to Puerto Natales. Hike Torres del Paine and gape at the ice giants of Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina, then head south to Punta Arenas (via Magellanic penguin colonies) and Tierra del Fuego. **Need to know:** Patagonia gets busier as December progresses; book accommodation and ferry tickets early. Nationals of UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand currently don't need visas for either Argentina or Chile; however, a reciprocity fee may be payable. Check with an embassy before travel. **Other months:** Dec–Mar – warmer, trekking season; Apr–Aug – cold, many hotels closed, trails snow-covered; Sep–Nov – spring.



Wildlife & nature  
Adventure  
Journey



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