

HOW SAFE IS YOUR CABIN AIR?

Better Than You Think

ALPS, ANGUILLA, AND SANTA FE

Great Deals of Winter

CALIFORNIA'S SECRET EDENS

By Bike, Kayak, Horse

INDIA'S MAGIC ISLES

Exquisite Andamans

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2010

GOLD LIST

SPECIAL
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SECTION

681 WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

TOP HOTELS,
RESORTS,
CRUISE LINES



CRUISE SPECIAL: 10 RULES FOR PERFECT PORTS OF CALL

Destination 2010

Ready to move beyond the tried-and-true? We present the five places—revamped, revved up, and ready to be (re)discovered—that adventurous travelers will be heading to this year

	BEACH	ADVENTURE	FOOD	ISLAND	CITY
WHERE	Galle Sri Lanka	Myanmar	Napa California	Fernando de Noronha Brazil	Shanghai China
WHY GO	<p>After a spate of violence, this Indian Ocean gem is becoming the fashionable must-stop for those looking for exotic winter sun. In addition to fortresses, ocean-front fishing villages, and atmospheric colonial-style</p>  <p>restaurants, chic new accommodations, like the <i>Eva Lanka</i>—opening on the beach 15 minutes from the UNESCO World Heritage Site town of Galle—are arriving (eva.lk; rates unavailable at press time). And there's plenty for culture hounds, including new events such as the town's literary festival in December, and a film fest planned for late 2010.</p>	<p>Dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi has changed her position on tourism: She now believes more visitors might help the political situation, so responsible travelers can head to this Asian up-and-comer with a clear conscience. Myanmar has a distinctly audacious side: Outfitter <i>Remote Lands</i> can organize kick-boxing lessons in Yangon (the sport originated here in the fifteenth century), hot-air balloon rides in Pagan, and treks to the 10,150-foot summit of Mount Victoria—whose national park has tigers, bears, and leopards (646-415-8092; from \$1,000 per person per day, including flights within Myanmar).</p> 	<p>This former wine-only Cali hub already has ten Michelin-starred restaurants, and more are on the way: Thomas Keller's first foray into Italian, <i>Vita</i> opens this summer (6725 Washington St., Yountville; phone number unavailable at press time). He'll have competition from <i>Bottega Ristorante</i>, new last year (6525 Washington St.; 707-945-1050; entrées, \$15-\$30). Rumor has it that Keller will also open a casual joint opposite his French Laundry. Later in 2010, celeb chefs Masaharu Morimoto and Tyler Florence will stamp their signatures (sushi and homey American) on restos in Napa's Riverfront District.</p> 	<p>Brazil's idyllic Marine National Park of Abrolhos has stayed mostly off the radar because of strictly enforced quotas on visitors. But the lucky few who get in will find 16 wild beaches on this seven-square-mile island, some of the world's best scuba-diving conditions (with spinner dolphins and turtles as your only companions), and funky bars serving fresh fish and just-caught local lobster, grilled beachside. Book a room at the newly refurbished <i>Pousada Maravilha</i>, a gorgeous enclave of villas with outdoor Japanese tubs, spectacular views, and a staff of 45 to wait on half as many guests (55-81-3619-0028; doubles, \$1,080-\$1,265).</p> 	<p>The 2010 World Expo—with the appropriately eco-conscious theme “Better City, Better Life”—will be one of the largest ever, focusing on improving environmental conditions in urban centers. To live up to the rhetoric, the world's largest installation of solar panels has already been constructed on the main pavilion roof, which is supported by more than 50,000 square feet of exterior “green” walls (the plants absorb carbon dioxide and replace less environmentally friendly building materials). The 200-plus national pavilions will highlight developments in eco-technology, provoking international discussion—and, one hopes, cooperation (.expo2010.cn).</p> 
WHAT TO BRING	<p>The curvy Meyerhoffer by Modern Longboards looks long but thinks short: It's easy to paddle, turns fast, and has a speedy narrow tail. Customize the color from basic white to fit in with the Sri Lankan style set (from \$645).</p> 	<p>Scared to upgrade your point-and-shoot to a serious digital single-lens reflex cam? <i>Sony's Alpha 330</i> is among the simplest and smallest DSLRs, with a screen that's easy to see, even in the blazing Myanmar sun (\$600).</p> 	<p>Bent on blending boho and sybarite style? Cruise Napa's gullies and vineyards in <i>Candela NYC's</i> ruby-red sandals, whose silky bobbins and straps fancify the natural leather sole (\$225).</p> 	<p>Scuba style is reborn at the hands of <i>Emporio Armani</i>: This bag is made of neoprene, like your wet suit, but printed in a bright, feminine floral (\$795).</p> 	<p>Worried your wardrobe won't measure up to the stylish silhouettes worn by Shanghai's scenesters? Carry the <i>Smythson</i> journal, which says it all: “I've got nothing to wear” (\$98).</p> 
DON'T MISS	<p>Book a room at <i>Jetwing Vil Uyana</i>, in a nature reserve, for excursions like elephant safaris, white-water rafting, and tea plantation visits (94-66-4323-5836; doubles, \$350-\$410).</p> 	<p>On January 15, a full solar eclipse will take place in central and western Myanmar. The best viewing spot? <i>Shwebo</i>, one of the former capitals of Myanmar, about two hours north of Mandalay, where it will last for a precious eight and a half minutes.</p>	<p>Pack a picnic—haricot vert and goat cheese salad or grilled apricot chicken—from the <i>Oakville Grocery</i>. Grab a bottle of wine, too, from its pared-down selection (7856 St. Helena Hwy., Oakville; 707-944-8802).</p> 	<p>Boutique-travel experts at <i>Dehouche</i> organize excursions like sailboat trips—with a private picnic in a secluded cove—and deal with the logistics of getting you onto the exclusive isle in the first place (55-21-2512-3895).</p> 	<p>Lay your head at <i>The Peninsula</i>, the first new Bunding in 60 years (86-21-2888; doubles, \$470) or the <i>PuLi Hotel and Spa</i> looking JingAn Park (86-21-3203-9999; doubles, \$365), or the <i>Deco Gallery Suites</i> (86-21-5000; doubles, \$95).</p>

Ditch Chicago cold for Abu Dhabi's art scene; **ETIHAD AIRWAYS'** new nonstop flight takes off daily from Chi-