


Discoveries

Northern Exposure

In Canada, a crop of new hotels brings design credentials to remote national parks and pristine wild places. **BY STOBHAN REID**

CANADIANS HAVE always been united by their love of the great outdoors. But over the past year, the desire to get into nature and embrace a slower and more socially-distanced lifestyle has taken on greater urgency than ever before; now many of the country's most popular mountain chalets and lakeside lodges are booked months in advance. Luckily, the arrival of sleek newcomers like British Columbia's **Hotel Zed** (hotelzed.com; doubles from \$139) is making it possible to book a last-minute pandemic-era escape. ▶



TRAVEL + LEISURE

A GLOBETROTTER'S GUIDE TO THE LATEST IN TRAVEL

Edited by SIOBHAN REID

Cox Bay lookout, in Tofino, British Columbia, is one of many scenic viewpoints within reach of the recently opened Hotel Zed.

EZWAN CHEW/EYEM/GETTY IMAGES

► Located in the tiny surf town of Tofino, on the western coast of Vancouver Island, the 58-room hotel has retro, over-the-top interiors (witness its sunken reception area with vintage leather wingback chairs and rotary phones). But the property is just as serious about adventure as it is about aesthetics. Take your binoculars (the hotel can lend you a pair) to the on-site bird sanctuary, which overlooks the Tofino Mudflats, to spot western sandpipers and great blue herons. Or set out for the town's network of coastal biking paths; one of them leads directly into Zed's "bike-through" lobby.

On the other side of the country, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the year-old **Hew & Draw** (hewanddraw.ca; doubles from \$127) offers easy access to the sea caves, glacial valleys, and dramatic fjords of Gros Morne National Park. Founded by a family with deep roots in Newfoundland, the 36-room property incorporates regionally-inspired accents like headboards covered in plaid (a nod to the checkered wool coats once worn by forestry workers) and wallpaper depicting native species like pine martens and caribou. After a full day of exploring Gros Morne or skiing the powdery slopes of nearby Marble Mountain, tour the hotel's brewery or refuel with beer-battered cod and chips at the pub-style restaurant.

The island that makes up Prince Edward County, in southern Ontario, is a favorite weekend escape for harried Torontonians.



Now that the all-season lakefront retreat **Wander** (wandertheresort.com; doubles from \$295) has opened in the quaint town of Bloomfield, it's easier than ever to visit. The 10 cabins are studies in Nordic design, with blond-wood furnishings, heated stone floors, and *hygge* touches like gas fireplaces. Each has an expansive deck that looks out to the serene waters of West Lake, which feeds into Lake Ontario. In the winter, cross-country ski or snowshoe along the 30-mile Millennium Trail, a former railway that traverses wetlands, vineyards, and fields. Or walk the windswept shoreline of the nearby Sandbanks Provincial Park, the largest freshwater barrier beach and dune system in the world.

▲ *Wander's lakeside cabins feel like private residences, with full kitchens and spacious patios.*



▲ *Every Someone Somewhere product—including the Essentials Case—has a personalized label with the name of the artisan who made the item.*

Gifts That Give Back

A new lifestyle brand partners with artisans from Latin America to create an ethical (and covetable) range of travel products—just in time for the holiday season. **BY SIOBHAN REID**

On high school volunteer trips to rural communities in Puebla, Hidalgo, and other Mexican states, Antonio Nuño and his best friends, Fátima Álvarez and Enrique Rodríguez, met hundreds of artisans who were struggling to make ends meet. The trips had such a lasting impact on the Mexico City-based social entrepreneur that, years later, he teamed up with his former classmates to launch a Kickstarter campaign promoting these artisans and their work. The crowdfunding initiative was successful,

so the trio decided to build upon the idea with a dedicated shoppable site. **Someone Somewhere** launched in the United States in September with a selection of everyday goods (T-shirts, backpacks, face masks) created by 180 craftswomen in villages across Mexico, with plans to bring makers from Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala into the fold in the near future. "For every fifteen visitors that come to our site we generate one hour of work for an artisan," Nuño says. "So it's easy to stay motivated." someonesomewhere.com.



Mystical Mexico City

A quirky bar and restaurant opens inside one of the capital's spookiest addresses. **BY MICHAELA TRIMBLE**

WITH ITS POINTED mansard roof resembling a witch's hat, the Casa de las Brujas building in Mexico City's Colonia Roma neighborhood stood out as an unusual example of Gothic Revival style when it debuted in 1908. Years later, the structure became the temporary residence of Bárbara "Pachita" Guerrero—one of Mexico's most famous shamans, who is said to have performed healing rituals on members of the political and social elite—cementing its reputation as the "House of Witches." That didn't deter local designer and entrepreneur Walter Meyenberg from opening a bar

▲ *Clockwise from top left: The Casa de las Brujas building; roasted carrots with creamy tofu and salsa macha at Pigeon; Brujas's head bartender Carmen Uribe prepares a dry martini; outdoor dining at Pigeon.*

and restaurant on the ground floor. At **Brujas** (fb.com/bruja), a team of female bartenders prepares drinks inspired by the traditional herbal remedies of Mexican shamanism—from a martini spiked with lemon verbena to a highball made with orange-blossom kombucha. At the next-door restaurant, **Pigeon** (fb.com/pigeonmx; *entrées \$26–\$50*), named after the building's architect, British-born Regis A. Pigeon, chefs Mercedes Bernal and Rodney Cusic serve Continental-style bistro dishes like schnitzel with pickled cucumbers and house-made mustard.

Cabin Fever

Frosty mornings call for cozy comforts. From luxurious gloves to chic leather boots, the season's warmest pieces are purpose-built for hitting the slopes or venturing onto snow-dusted trails.



1.

1. *Loewe Balloon striped bag in felt and calfskin, \$2,100; loewe.com. Pendleton Motor Robe blanket in Vintage Dress Stewart, \$100; pendleton-usa.com.*

2. *Tory Sport merino pom-pom hat in Gala red, \$128; torysport.com. Ugg shearling gloves, \$155; ugg.com. Hermès men's ankle boots, \$1,300; hermes.com.*

3. *Canada Goose Baby Lamb snowsuit, \$395; canadagoose.com. Bogner Sport Robyn jacket, \$390; bogner.com.*



3.





◀ Clockwise from far left: Admiring Santa Fe's Loretto Chapel on a bike tour with Heritage Inspirations; beef empanadas at Mariposa, in Sedona, Arizona; the adobe casitas at Sedona's Enchantment Resort.



Sunshine State of Mind

With new hotels, buzzy restaurants, and unique outdoor experiences popping up, the desert towns and wide-open spaces of the American Southwest are ripe for rediscovery. **BY TANVI CHHEDA**

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Occupying a former motor lodge, the recently opened hotel **Tuxon** (thetuxonhotel.com; doubles from \$96) pays tribute to the Desert Modernism movement, with 112 rooms done up in sleek lines and eye-popping geometric tiles, plus an original boomerang-shaped pool. Within walking distance is **MSA Annex** (mercadodistrict.com/annex), an open-air marketplace with art galleries and shops. Splurge on the prickly-pear-infused eye-popping serum at the boutique **Mesa** (fb.com/shopatmesa). For a Wild West-style adventure, sign up for the "Wrangler for a Day" experience at **Tanque Verde Ranch** (tanqueverderanch.com; doubles from \$165), during which

the property's lead wrangler, Marty Orenstein, teaches basic horse-riding skills, such as how to lope and trot.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

The Sunbelt town has seen an explosion in thoughtfully designed hotels over the past few years. The newest kid on the block is the **Adero Scottsdale** (aderoscottsdale.com; doubles from \$211), a family-friendly resort spread across 17 acres of rugged Sonoran Desert. The hotel is located within a Dark Sky Community, so guests can experience some next-level stargazing. In Scottsdale's Old Town, the 5,400-square-foot **Merchantile** (themerchantileofscottsdale.com) is a one-stop retail hub for Arizona-made jewelry, macramé art, and leather goods. And at Frank Lloyd Wright's **Taliesin West** (franklloydwright.org), a new audio tour lets visitors explore the architect's winter retreat and studio at their own pace.

SEDONA, ARIZONA

In Red Rock Country, the wellness-centered **Enchantment Resort** (enchantmentresort.com; doubles from \$359) recently debuted a multipurpose activity center with technical apparel, a bike-rental station, and an exhibit on the area's hiking trails. For dinner with a view, snag a table at the **Vault Uptown** (thevaultuptown.com; entrées \$19-\$44), where Sedona's famed sandstone scenery comes with shareable bites like short-rib tacos rubbed with achiote paste. Or make room for the "gaucho plate" and other

Latin-inspired dishes at **Mariposa** (mariposasedona.com; entrées \$28–\$42), one of five restaurants the self-taught chef and restaurateur Lisa Dahl operates around town.

ALBUQUERQUE

Duke City has been quietly reinventing itself for years. At the newly made-over **El Vado Motel** (elvadoabq.com; doubles from \$115), a roadside icon dating back to 1937, the bright, contemporary rooms have log-beam ceilings and art by local painter Darryl Willison. Meanwhile, in the Highland Business District and Nob Hill neighborhoods, **Modern Albuquerque** (modernabq.org) hosts architectural tours that offer an up-close look at the city's 350-plus Midcentury Modern landmarks. For another perspective on the city's skyline, book reservations at **Ten 3** (ten3tram.com; entrées \$29–\$53), the year-old fine-dining restaurant at the top of the Sandia Peak Tramway.

SANTA FE

In the Southwest, locals beat the winter blues by “taking the waters,” or soaking in outdoor spring-fed pools. At the 70-acre **Ojo Santa Fe** (ojosantafe.ojospa.com; doubles from \$225), guests can unwind in mineral-rich mud baths under the shade of cottonwood trees. Sign up for an e-bike tour of Santa Fe's historic churches organized by New Mexico tour operator **Heritage Inspirations** (heritageinspirations.com; \$155). Nearby, in the revitalized Railyard District, savor sweets like cardamom rice pudding at **Opuntia** (opuntia.cafe), a pint-size café overflowing with potted plants.



▲ Soaking in a spring-fed thermal pool at Ojo Santa Fe.



Going Greener

A massive reforestation initiative is under way in one of Africa's most stunning archipelagos.

BY STEPHANIE VERMILLION

SEYCHELLES, A NATION of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, is renowned for its lush landscapes and unique biodiversity—but even paradise is vulnerable to climate change. Forests across Praslin, the second-most-populous island, have been decimated by fires in recent decades, exacerbated by increasing drought and agricultural land clearing. Now roughly 40 percent of the island's forests are unlikely to recover without an intervention.

But a growing number of conservationists are determined to take action. Under the leadership of Elvina Henriette, a biologist at the University of Seychelles, the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society is helping the government employ furloughed tourism staffers to plant 500,000 trees across Praslin over the next five years. The first segment, which will add 25,000 new palms, mangroves,

and more native species, will be completed in December.

Many hotels are also doing their part. On the main island, Mahé, the mangrove-flanked **Constance Ephelia** (constancehotels.com; doubles from \$489) refills 800 glass water bottles daily and also irrigates the grounds with gray water treated using solar power. **Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa** (hilton.com; doubles from \$460) on Silhouette Island recently debuted an aquaponic garden that supplies produce for its on-site restaurants, consuming 95 percent less water than traditional farming methods. And the ultra-luxe **North Island** (north-island.com; villas from \$6,510) runs a conservation program that helps remove invasive flora and fauna, reestablishing indigenous species like the hawksbill turtle and Seychelles blue pigeon.

▲ From top: An aerial view of North Island; Evans Ambani, a horticulturist at Hilton Seychelles Labriz, in the resort's organic garden.