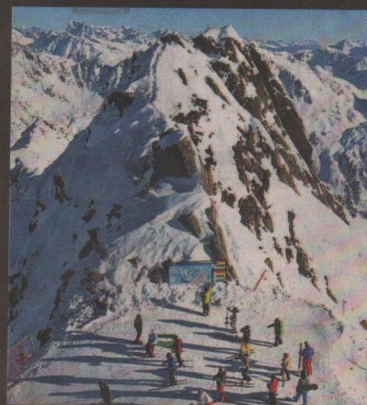
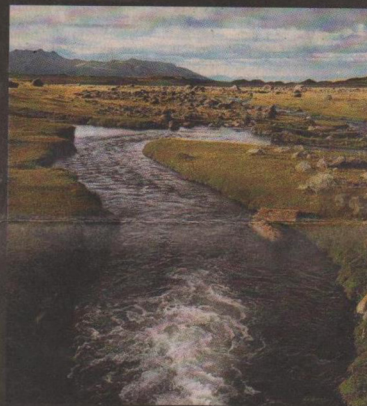
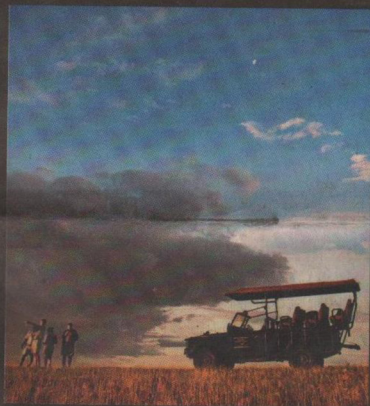


# 52 Places to Go in 2014



KADU PINHEIRO (BRAZIL); OLWEN EVANS/WILDERNESS SAFARIS (NAMIBIA); DAVID HAGERMAN (TAIWAN); MARTIN BURTSCHE/KEYSTONE/CORBIS (SWITZERLAND); FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES SAMANTHA REUNDERS (CAPE TOWN); KO SASAKI (JAPAN); DENNIS RIVERA (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC); IVAN KASHINSKY (ECUADOR) AND JAKOB DALL (DENMARK)

Top, from left, Cape Town, South Africa; underwater scene in Fernando de Noronha, Brazil; on the beach at Yurabuzaki, on the island of Ishigaki, Japan. Middle, from left, a rhino-watching safari in Namibia; among the trees at the Casa Bonita in Barahona, Dominican Republic; Cotopaxi National Park, Ecuador. Bottom, from left, Maritime Museum of Denmark in Elsinore; a food stall in Taipei, Taiwan; Gemsstock mountain above the village of Andermatt, Switzerland.



### 35. Mekong River

River cruising swells on the Danube of Asia.

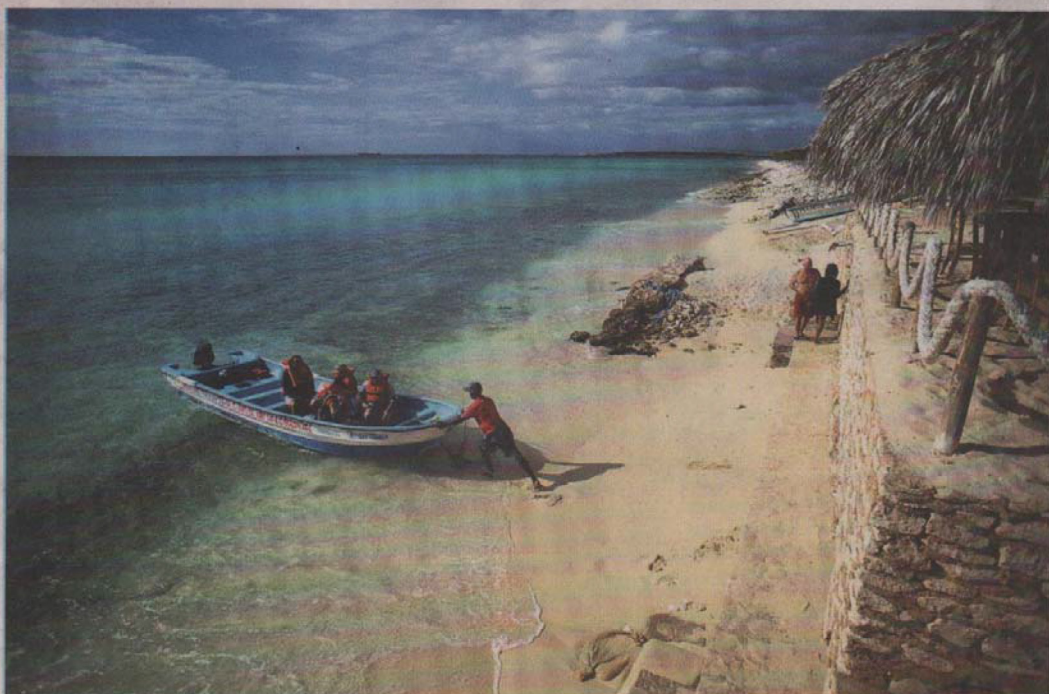
Like the Danube in Europe, the Mekong River in Southeast Asia has become a vital river cruising course, with a variety of small-ship itineraries linking Vietnam and Cambodia. Late last year, Pandaw River Expeditions upgraded two of its ships, the Mekong Pandaw and Tonia Pandaw, enlarging public spaces, adding gyms and stocking cabins with iPads. In 2012, the company launched the 32-guest Angkor Pandaw, offering three- to seven-night itineraries, while Avalon Waterways set the 32-passenger Avalon Angkor sailing between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap over seven nights. Next August, Aqua Expeditions will introduce the 20-suite Aqua Mekong, offering guided shore excursions to temples, villages and wildlife-rich areas via skiffs.

ELAINE GLUSAC

### 36. Athens

Out of an economic crisis, a city surges back.

Vibrancy and innovation can bloom even in hard times. Exhibit A is Greece's ancient capital, which was hit hard by the global economic crisis and yet is seeing change at sites old and new. First the old: At the Acropolis, the famous Caryatids statues continue to get a restoration in 2014; the process will be on view in the Acropolis Museum through the end of the year. And the new: The National Museum of Contemporary Art opens this spring in a former brewery complex. Neighborhoods have also seen a resurgence, including the quickly gentrifying Monastiraki and the still gritty Kerameikos-Metaxourgio; the latter will get a cul-



DENNIS RIVERA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

From top, a water taxi in the southwestern part of the Dominican Republic; cheese board at L'Enclume restaurant in the English Lake District village of Cartmel; musical celebration of a birth in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

tural lift in 2015 from the biannual ReMap art event. Travelers will have a new lodging option by summer, when a revived Emporikon Hotel opens on Aiolou, a street that is also home to a host of new dining spots. GISELA WILLIAMS

### 37. Barahona, Dominican Republic

A scenic, low-key destination on the verge of discovery.

Most vacationers to La Republica hole up in the all-inclusives north and east, overlooking the rarely traveled southwest. The port town of Barahona is the gateway to the cactus-strewn region's riches, like the hauntingly beautiful Bahía de las Águilas beach and the eight climate zones at the geological depression Hoyo de Pelempito, both blissfully devoid of people. But there are signs of the government's vision to develop the area. The abandoned former Barcelo Baboruco Beach Resort will partly open in 2014, and two separate 300-room projects — near La Canoa and San Rafael Beach — are in the final stages of design approval. For now, you can experience the quiet life at the thatch-roofed Casa Bonita, or at Rancho Platon, which has a tree house raised between the palms.

and Arab influences. Add in the street food, the beaches and the fact that the year-old African low-cost carrier Fastjet uses Dar as its hub, and it's easy to see that this commercial capital is more than a stopover on the way to Tanzania's natural splendor. It is an African metropolis coming into its own.

RACHEL B. DOYLE

### 40. Downtown Atlanta

A revitalized city center welcomes new museums and streetcars.

Atlanta plans several ribbon cuttings in 2014, but the main event is the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, scheduled to open in May next to the Centennial Olympic Park and the Georgia Aquarium downtown. The 42,000-square-foot, environmentally friendly museum will feature permanent galleries devoted to domestic and international rights struggles and will house the Martin Luther King Jr. papers owned by Morehouse College. By midyear, visitors will be able to take the

But the recent arrival of stylish, foreigner-friendly restaurants, cafes and bars has infused the area with new energy, offering travelers just the right mix of old and new. Microbrews and excellent coffee are served at ski-in/ski-out Craft Room, while Tamon prepares innovative kaiseki cuisine using local ingredients. The lantern-hung rooms at Jon Nobi are popular among international skiers, as is its chic izakaya restaurant Himatsuri, inspired by the town's fire festival, held annually on Jan. 15. The Asian operator Backyard Travel offers 10-day itineraries to explore Nozawa and nearby sights like a seventh-century temple and a refuge for the area's famed snow monkeys. NAOMI LINDT

### 42. Subotica, Serbia

Serbian wine? Time to take a sip.

The Balkan Peninsula has a wine culture that dates back hundreds of years, but war and political unrest over the last century decimated Serbian vineyards. As recently as a decade ago, Serbia produced virtually no wine that met international standards. But progress has been swift. Recently, small producers have revived the Subotica-Horgos wine region near the northern border with Hungary. Here, the Palic Wine Route has been attracting domestic wine tourists who spend days sampling local cabernet sauvignon in wine cellars, sipping dry Trijumf white during dinner at Bosscaffé and unwinding in the Hotel Galleria's high-tech spa. INGRID K. WILLIAMS

### 43. Elsinore, Denmark

A museum's entrance makes for something new in the state of Denmark.

Even angst-ridden Prince Hamlet, literature's most famous Dane, might be cheered by the new Maritime Museum of Denmark, which recently opened in his hometown, Elsinore. Designed by the architectural firm Bjarke Ingels Group, the glassy structure is built into a U-shaped dry dock and filled with slanted floors and zigzag passageways that evoke ocean-rocked ships' decks. Maritime relics mix with electronic maps and films that explore the romance and realities of the sea, both centuries ago and today. Interactive exhibits allow you to run your own trade company, navigate by the stars and ink a sailor's tattoo. SETH SHERWOOD



NICHOLE SOBIECKI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

the newly opened Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel in Iceland and the Icehotel in Swedish Lapland (and actually within the Arctic Circle). GISELA WILLIAMS

new Atlanta Streetcar on a 2.7-mile loop that will link the park to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and other