

TOWN & COUNTRY

The Best Places to Travel in 2019

All of the most spectacular places to see and be seen in the new year.



by **KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA** DEC 7, 2018



Figuring out how best to spend your travel dollars is the most delicious dilemma of a life well lived. What follows are our suggestions for the year to come, based on intelligence collected, insiders consulted, and cultural, gastronomic, and geopolitical trends considered. Want to bathe in wellness? Try the Berkshires—or Bhutan. Want to leave the world behind? Head for Namibia—or Norway. Fancy some time travel? Get thee to Romania—or a secret bit of paradise off Panama.

Our 25 destinations include places near and far, hot and cold, laid-back and anything but. They all have noteworthy new hotels, and we provide the names of travel specialists who can help you book. Nothing like starting the New Year spoiled for choice.

CABO'S EAST CAPE

BECAUSE IT'S SO CLOSE YET FEELS SO SURREALLY FAR



GETTY IMAGES

John Steinbeck loved the raw beauty of the Baja Peninsula's little-visited east coast, on the Sea of Cortés: empty beaches, expanses of dune, sleepy villages, cardon cactus–studded landscapes, and barely a hotel in sight. But most travelers have long headed west from Los Cabos International Airport to the Pacific side's boho-chic town of Todos Santos (now home to the sceney Hotel San Cristobal) and the many five-star pleasures in Cabo San Lucas: the grand stalwart One&Only Palmilla and the Resort at Pedregal (and, soon, a new Nobu).

But that flow is about to change direction. Viceroy, the Luxury Collection, and Montage all recently planted their flags on the peninsula's east side, and Zadún, only the fourth Ritz-Carlton Reserve property in the world, opens this March on a secluded two-mile stretch of beach in San José del Cabo.

Farther on, a bumpy dirt road brings you to the oasis that is Costa Palmas, home to the Four Seasons, which is slated to open next year, as well as a members-only beach club, a 250-slip marina, a yacht club, a golf course, and an 18-acre working organic farm. (The first Aman in Mexico, the Amanvari, arrives in this gorgeous semi wilderness in 2020, with pavilions on stilts that resemble spaceships poised amid the sand and cacti.)

The promise (at last!) of infinity pools, world class spas, and gourmet restaurants may be what lures you here, but the calm, swimmable waters of the Sea of Cortés (parent alert: There is no undertow along this coast), the spectacular diving in Cabo Pulmo Marine National Park (Mexico's premier marine sanctuary and protected reef), and the tiny village restaurants where the grandmas hand-toss tortillas are the reasons you'll keep coming back.

[Click here for online article.](#)