

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

AUGUST 2017

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OUR TRAVEL
TIPS, TRICKS, AND
MISCELLANY

A GUIDE
TO TRAVELING BETTER
THIS MONTH

GOOD NEWS

Seems like every month brings a new, too-good-to-be-true airfare sale. Next up: Barcelona! Thanks to upstart airlines like Level, Norwegian, and Wow Air, round trips are crazy cheap—less than \$500. “And it’s not just new airlines with lower fares,” says Amanda Festa of Cheap Flights. “You’ll find similar rates on Aer Lingus, American, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia, Lufthansa, Swiss, and TAP Portugal.”

BAD NEWS

Well, it was good while it lasted. After years of adding flights between the U.S. and the Gulf—and on to Africa, India, and Southeast Asia—Emirates has cut back on service to five U.S. cities, including Boston and Seattle. It’s blaming the new in-cabin electronics ban, which it says impacted “consumer interest.” At least Emirates is keeping the much-loved New York–Milan and the new Newark–Athens flights for summer.

UNBELIEVABLE NEWS

Prepare to be squished beyond belief. American is about to cram seats even closer together in an effort to sell more tickets. The “seat pitch,” or distance between a point on one seat and the same on another, will shrink from 31 inches to 29 in some rows of the airline’s new 737 planes (makes you really appreciate JetBlue and its dignified 33 inches). There’s more: The bathrooms on these new jets will be smaller too. Not cool, American. Not cool.



Our Fave New Neighborhoods Are on the Water

These forward-thinking cities are investing billions to turn old docklands from no-go zones to the places you’ll actually want to hang out.

	WHAT'S HAPPENING	WHY IT'S WORTH THE TRIP	HOW TO DO IT
Oslo	In 2008, the Oslo Opera House opened, establishing the harbor area of Bjørvika (above) as the city's cultural hub. Four years later, Renzo Piano's Astrup Fearnley museum cemented its rep.	You'll see works by Eliasson, Koons, and Sherman at the Fearnley, but make a plan to go back in 2020 for the openings of the National and Edvard Munch museums.	Spend the night next door to the Fearnley at Norway's best design hotel, The Thief. (A planned sister property by hotelier Petter Stordalen should arrive by 2019.)
Rio de Janeiro	Rio's city council spent eight years (and \$2.5 billion) to transform an old Guanabara Bay pier into the Porto Maravilha museum quarter.	Santiago Calatrava's cantilevered, straight-outta sci-fi Museum of Tomorrow has impressive interactive exhibits on the Anthropocene era.	After hitting the Museum of Tomorrow, walk across Mauá Square to the four-year-old Museu de Arte do Rio for a look at Debret portraits—and a copioska at the rooftop bar at sunset.
Sydney	The once-industrial Millers Point area north of Darling Harbor is now a stunning stretch of parkland that's been renamed Barangaroo in honor of an Aboriginal leader.	This area was once home to the Gadigal people, and it's filled with both petroglyphs and contemporary works by native artists.	Hit Manly Beach in the morning, then hop a ferry to Barangaroo's new terminal before walking northwest to the Walumli Lawns, overlooking the world's most "grammable" harbor.
Washington, D.C.	Locals avoided the underutilized Southwest Waterfront for years, but that'll change when the first phase of a \$2 billion private development, The Wharf, opens this fall.	At least 20 restaurants are planned, many by D.C.'s hottest chefs like Fabio Trabocchi and Nick Stefanelli. Expect outdoor seating and menus heavy on Chesapeake seafood.	Go after a day on the National Mall, a few blocks north. Start with East Coasters on the half shell at Hank's Oyster Bar, then do dinner at Del Mar as the sun sets over the Potomac.

Photograph by Ivan Etkin