

The New York Times



52 Places to Go in 2018

A starter kit for escaping into the world.

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ROTORUA NEW ZEALAND

Come for the mud baths, stay for the beauty.

45

Sulfurous geysers and mineral-rich hot springs scent Rotorua, New Zealand's North Island hub of Maori culture. Celebrating the city's geothermal blessings, the first annual **Mudtopia Festival**, featuring mud games and massages, launched in December. Nature is again animated in Rotorua's Whakarewarewa Forest where the **Redwood Treewalk**, an elevated trail of 21 suspension bridges amid a redwood grove, introduced the **Redwoods Nightlights**. Thirty dramatic lighting installations from the designer David Trubridge romance the majestic trees after dark.

— Elaine Glusac



What to do in Rotorua

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