

TRAVEL • CULTURE • STYLE • ADVENTURE • ROMANCE!

# PASSPORT

INSIDER'S GUIDE  
**ISTANBUL**

PERAMBULATING  
**PERU**

DREAMSCAPE  
**NEW ZEALAND**

IN THE VIP LOUNGE  
**GREG LOUGANIS**

VARIETY & DIVERSITY  
**VANCOUVER**

WORLD EATS  
**MEXICO CITY**

DOING BUSINESS IN  
**LOS ANGELES**

ART & NATURE  
**THE BERKSHIRES**

WHAT'S NEW IN  
**PUERTO VALLARTA**

DECEMBER 2012  
USA \$4.95 CANADA \$5.95



**+** THE MOST SPECTACULAR LGBT  
SKI WEEKS IN THE WORLD!



nesses, and individuals all contribute to the village, a miniature version of Bergen, by making little houses, trains, cars, and ships made from real gingerbread. The construction is put on display throughout the month of December, this year from November 25-December 31, and spectators can buy gingerbread cookies to help support the spectacle. [www.pepperkakebyen.org](http://www.pepperkakebyen.org)

## SCOTLAND STONEHAVEN

The annual **Stonehaven Fireball Festival** takes place December 31-January 1. This unique New Year's celebration, often known as "The Fireballs," features a parade of around 45 people swinging fireballs around their heads. If you're looking for a little more heat in your New Years this year, check out this interesting display just over two hours north of Edinburgh. Take a romantic weekend and explore the Scottish countryside while you're at it, as the views are sure to be impressive. [www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk](http://www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk)

## SLOVENIA LJUBLJANA

The **Ljubljana Gay and Lesbian Film Festival**, established in 1983, is one of the oldest events of its kind. Located in a rather conservative society, this movie fest strives to promote awareness and acceptance. From November 24-December 2, the festival brings a fresh lineup that continues to push boundaries and advocate for change. [www.ljudmila.org/siqrd/fgtf/](http://www.ljudmila.org/siqrd/fgtf/)

## SPAIN BARCELONA

Barcelona's traditional **Catalan Christmas Fair** outside of Barcelona Cathedral dates back to 1786. The fair has over 300 stalls selling seasonal goods like Catalan nativity figures, mistletoe, and Christmas trees, and delicious treats like Christmas biscuits. This year it will take place November 29-December 23. Located in the beautiful Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, the fair also happens to be in the main shopping area. It's the perfect opportunity to get all your Christmas shopping done in one outing while admiring the historic architecture. The *Fira* (Christmas lighting) will also be on display December 3-23. [www.firadesantallucia.cat](http://www.firadesantallucia.cat)

## SWITZERLAND ZÜRICH

Head to the beautiful city of Zürich from now until January 15 to view the works of Matisse, Modigliani, Kandinsky, Claude Monet and more at **Miró, Monet, Matisse – The Nahmad Collection**. For the first time ever, over one hundred major pieces from a one-of-a-kind private collection are on display in an exclusive exhibition at the **Kunsthaus Zürich**. This isn't your grandparent's art collection—the Nahmad family has been collecting art for two generations with works that range from Impressionism to Surrealism. The family is

## TALES FROM FINNAIR'S CABIN CREW

First-hand accounts of unruly passengers, mile-high good deeds, weird coincidences, and in-flight myth busting are just a few of the topics explored in ***Airborne: Tales From A Thousand Flights***. This collection of anecdotes written by Finnair's cabin crew is a fast-



paced look at some of the best (and worst) stories from up in the air. On their own time, cabin-crew members Riitta Kiiveri, Noora Kunttu, Pirkko Saari, Christina Strandberg, Meriitta Ahtikari, Kati Kaivanto, Lene Malmstrøm and Tony Pokkinen wrote or collected stories from their colleagues for publication in *Airborne*. "There are innumerable stories about flying, and as it has become an increasingly popular mode of transportation, reaching further and farther into all corners of the world, these stories have become increasingly vivid," writes cabin crew member Riitta Kiiveri in the book's foreword. "To the reader, we would like to wish a pleasant journey with us to the far edge of the world and back." The collection of stories (also available in Suomi as *Taivas Mikä Työpaikka*) is currently available for purchase online with all profits going to the Finnish Central Association for Mental Health. [www.airbornethebook.com](http://www.airbornethebook.com).

—Paul Summers

also known for their extensive Picasso collection that features a breathtaking selection of pieces from all phases of his career. [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch)

## TURKEY ISTANBUL

The 6th Annual **Contemporary Istanbul** art festival will take place November 24-27. It is labeled the most extensive modern and contemporary art event in Turkey, and works to promote Turkey's culture and art scene. Located at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC), the event showcases international artists, art galleries, collectors, museum directors, curators, art critics, journalists, and art lovers. Some of the art displayed will be painting, sculpture, plastic arts, gravure works on paper, photography, installation, video, and graphics. If you're interested in Contemporary Istanbul but can't make it to the festival, you're in luck. Contemporary Istanbul also organizes cultural events throughout the year, including art projects, conferences, and exhibitions. [www.contemporaryistanbul.com](http://www.contemporaryistanbul.com)

## AUSTRALIA/OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA SYDNEY

When exploring Australia's capital this January, don't miss **Flickerfest**, Australia's only competitive International Short Film Festival. It is the only

short film festival in Australia with BAFTA and Academy accredited status, showing Academy Award-nominated films plus other international award-winning films. This means you are guaranteed to see some great flicks. This year Flickerfest will be January 6-15 at Bondi Pavilion on Bondi Beach. [www.flickerfest.com.au](http://www.flickerfest.com.au)

### SHOALHAVEN

If you're a big foodie, then you will love the **Shoalhaven Food and Wine Show**, January 7-8 at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre. The show is a two-day extravaganza with 75 different food and wine vendors, ranging from gourmet food to local and regional produce, award-winning wines, and food from local restaurants. The delicious food is paired with live music and major raffle prizes, including barbecues, coffee machines, kitchen appliances, and more. There will also be live celebrity chef cooking demonstrations for those looking to try new recipes and bring local Aussie cuisine home with them. [www.shoalhavenfoodandwine.com.au](http://www.shoalhavenfoodandwine.com.au)

### MELBOURNE

**Midsumma** is an annual LGBT arts and culture festival held in over 70 different venues across Melbourne from January 15-February 5. Pegged as an event celebrating queer arts, the festival includes art exhibitions, cabaret and musical performances, theatre performances, live bands,