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## WALK THIS WAY

Take a stroll on the Caribbean side as the region recovers with revamps and a clutch of new resorts after a hiatus following 2017's hurricane horror

Plus: How to... Instagram, South Africa, Sydney, Sardinia, Spa & wellbeing, On Location with Different Planet Travel, a Dubai/Maldives twin centre and the ttgluxury Travel Awards

# Globetrotter's guide

2018 is a great year for luxury travel, with a raft of new routes, hotel openings and trends sure to whet clients' appetite and encourage them to travel more

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## The Americas

**British Airways** launches a Gatwick flight to Toronto in May; suggest hip clients try **The Broadview Hotel**, by Canadian studio DesignAgency, which has transformed the one-time Jilly's strip club into a boutique hotel with a great top-floor terrace.

**Lido House** debuts this spring as an Autograph Collection hotel in Newport Beach, California. It will have 130 rooms, but maintain the feel of a cosy guesthouse on Balboa Island Peninsula. The hotel will include The Mayor's Table restaurant and Topside, the only rooftop bar in Newport Beach.

**Portland, Oregon** will get its only direct flight from the UK when Delta launches a four-weekly service from Heathrow on May 4, but only until October, so suggest combining it with the city's new hotel talent, including **The Hoxton, Portland** (113 bedrooms, a rooftop restaurant, basement bar and cool events programme), **Jupiter NEXT** (a sophisticated expansion to the original Jupiter Hotel), and **The Porter**, with 297 rooms, a library, indoor pool and meditation centre and rooftop bar.

**Nashville** can expect more UK visitors, as from May British Airways will launch a service making it the only airline flying direct between Europe and Tennessee's capital. The place to stay will be **The Bobby** (pictured above), launching in April as a member of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Lifestyle Collection.

**Chicago** gets in on the flight action with a Norwegian year-round, four-weekly service from March 25, to be followed by a three-weekly service to Austin by the carrier from March 27; both routes will be served by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Still in Texas, watch out for Preferred Hotels & Resorts Legend Collection's **Post Oak Hotel at Uptown**, said to be the city's biggest development in decades with 250 rooms and a Bentley and Rolls-Royce showroom.

**Thomas Cook Airlines** is to expand its long-haul flights from Manchester with a new route to **Seattle** on May 27, operating on an Airbus A330-200 twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays; the city has seen a rush of hotels open and is the home of Amazon's HQ.



**Denver** gets a new nonstop service from the UK, as **United Airlines** launches its daily Heathrow seasonal service (March 24-October 26) using a Boeing 787-8 aircraft.

**Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas** is breaking into South America thanks to the **Anantara Marau Bahia Resort** on the Marau peninsula in Bahia, opening in the middle of this year. The Brazilian debut is on a stretch of Atlantic coastline surrounded by forest.

**Aracari**, a Peru-based operator, is shining a light on the **Tambopata national reserve** in the Peruvian Amazon, with the launch of a new experience with the Tambopata Research Center, creator of the Macaw Project, where guests can witness the spectacular gathering of thousands of parrots and macaws.

**Zadun, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve** will open on the coastal sanctuary of Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo, this year. The 115-key hotel is surrounded by Puerto Los Cabos Golf course with nines designed by Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus. There is also a spa and an environmental programme with

Jean Michel Cousteau. **Chable Maroma** arrives in Mexico this summer, set on the Maroma beach with 70 villas with pools; it's 35 minutes from Cancun, but a world apart.

For details of Caribbean openings, see page 60.

## Europe, Middle East and Africa

**Monkey Island Estate** is the latest UK project from Malaysia-based YTL. Due in June in Bray-on-Thames, it will sit across seven acres with 27 bedrooms and three suites and the Monkey Island Brasserie serving modern British cuisine.

**Linthwaite House** reveals its makeover in June in the Lake District, following Leeu Collection's £10 million revamp of the hotel. Highlights include new restaurant Stella, where guests can feast on some of the finest cuisine in the Lake District, under chef Ritu Dalmia.

**University Arms Cambridge** will be the biggest thing to hit the city's hotel scene for years when it opens in the summer after an £80 million restoration by architect John Simpson and interior design by Martin Brudnizki. Perfect for the hi-tech pockets now populating the area, it will also respect the city's literary and academic spirit, with 192 rooms and suites.

**The Langley, a Luxury Collection Hotel**, opens in Buckinghamshire in August after a four-year restoration of the Duke of Marlborough's former estate by Dennis Irvine Studio. The 41-room hotel promises to feature Europe's largest underground spa at 25,000sq ft, with eight treatment rooms and a fitness programme by Matt Roberts.

**National Geographic Expeditions** hopes to engage with agents and grow its UK market, launching a range of itineraries, including private group tours, private jet trips, small ships and eco lodges.

**The Machrie**, set in the dunes of Islay in Scotland, is the latest project from Campbell Gray Hotels, opening this summer with 47 rooms. The island is already known for its fine whiskies, birdlife, and is the home of The Machrie Links golf course.

**Grand Central Hotel** is Northern Ireland's big news this year as Hastings reveals the results of its £53 million 300-room project in June.

**Hotel De Berri, A Luxury Collection Hotel**, opens in Paris on May 15, in the 8th arrondissement, with a private park and an extraordinary art collection. Paris will also see the rebirth of **Hotel Lutetia** in spring after four years of painstaking restoration. Also creating a stir is **Fauchon L'Hotel Paris**, which opens on Place de la Madeleine with 65 rooms and suites and a Carita spa.





Greece is the word as Easyjet starts flying from Luton to Rhodes and Bristol to Kefalonia this spring. Ionian Island Holidays adds two new flight routes: Heathrow to Kefalonia starting Saturdays from May 26 and Newcastle to Skiathos (also for Skopelos, Atonissos and the Pelion) from May 4. Also in May in Corfu comes the new adult-only **MarBella Nido Suite Hotel & Villas** in Agios Ioannis Peristeron in the south-east corner of the island, with 70 suites and villas. Also in Corfu in May will be **Ikos Dassia**, framed by fragrant woodland with dazzling views of the Ionian Sea, and offering Anne Semonin spa treatments. **Four Seasons** fans will find their first flag in Greece, the renovated **Astir Palace**, 30 minutes from Athens in Vouliagmeni along a pristine shoreline of the Aegean coast, with 300 rooms.

**Club Med** is set to open its first 5 Trident Resort in Europe, with Club Med Cefalu arriving in Sicily this June. Part of the Exclusive Collection, it will pair luxury accommodation with authentic Italian food made by renowned chef Andrea Berton and an infinity pool.

**Seven Pines Resort** finally makes its entrance in Ibiza. This all-suite cliff-top resort with 186 spacious suites in whitewashed Ibiza-style homes and a comprehensive spa – not to mention its own Pershing yacht – looks set to be the go-to hotel on the island this year.

**Radisson Collection Royal Copenhagen** has a name change (from Radisson Blu Royal Hotel) and a redesign, thanks to Space Copenhagen, which has reintroduced original features and furniture of what was originally the Royal Hotel, created entirely by legendary designer Arne Jacobsen.

**Six Senses Kaplankaya** (pictured top) is a mega-spa resort opening on May 1 close to Bodrum. Guests at the 141-room Turkish hotel can avail of one of the brand's most extensive and advanced

spa and wellness offerings to date. The resort also sees the debut of the brand's holistic anti-aging clinic by neuroscientist Dr Claudia Aguirre.

Israel gets a luxury injection this year, as **W Jaffa, Tel Aviv** opens in spring, joining the **Setai Tel Aviv**, with 120 slick rooms. That brand is also expanding on to the **Sea of Galilee** and will be home to the country's largest wellness facility – well, perhaps until **Six Senses** opens its first property in Israel, the 58-room **Six Senses Shoharut**, in the Negev Desert's Arava Valley.

**Dubai** will be within reach from the east of England from June 8 when Emirates launches a daily service from Stansted on a new three-class Boeing 777-300ER featuring the latest cabin interiors including enclosed private suites in first class. For somewhere to stay, **ME Dubai** opens this year, the first project to have the late Zaha Hadid design both the interiors and exterior architecture.

**Mavros Safaris** is offering Zimbabwean travel experiences as the country finds its way back on to the tourism map. **Matetsi Victoria Falls** is a beautifully designed luxury bush camp with 18 river-facing suites, located on a stretch of the Zambezi, while **Matetsi River Lodge** is 24 miles upriver from Victoria Falls. After a major redesign, **Singita Pamushna** is to reopen in the south-east, with access to Malilangwe Reserve and the potential to see black rhino.

**One&Only's** eagerly awaited lodge, Gorilla's Nest, outside of Volcanoes national park is due by the end of the year, while **Singita Kwitonda Lodge** should arrive later next year, with just

London

London is a hotbed of hotel development as usual. The most decadent looks set to be **L'Oscar**, designed by French designer Jacques Garcia of Hotel Costes fame and opening this spring. This boutique hotel in Holborn has just 39 opulent and sexy rooms, all created within the impressive Baptist Church House. At its heart is an elegant domed chapel beneath which will sit the hotel's restaurant, **The Baptist**, with cuisine by chef Tony Fleming. Also over this side of town comes **The Gallery**, a 50-room conversion project by YTL in Bloomsbury, with New York-based designer Alexandra Champalimaud putting her stamp on five Georgian townhouses, due by April. On a grander scale will be 334-room **The Principal**, and then over in Whitechapel the **New Road Hotel** (pictured) will boast Mr White's English Chophouse, by Marco Pierre White, opening in March. Tower Bridge gets a hip hotel in the autumn with the opening of **The Dixon**, an Autograph Collection hotel on Tooley Street. At **The Langham**, Roux at The Landau, the restaurant by Michel Roux, Jr. has a new menu and revved-up look by David Collins Studio. And if it's design your clients are into, suggest a capital stay between June 15 and October 7 to see the Serpentine Pavilion – this year it's Mexican architect Frida Escobedo's turn.



eight suites and a private villa with views of Sabyinyo, Gahinga and Muhabura volcanoes.

**Sun International** has completed its four-year Time Square project in Pretoria; it's mainly shopping and casinos but does bring a new five-star hotel option for those wanting to add-on time pre- or post-Rovos Rail or Blue Train journeys. The **Maslow Time Square** opens on April 1, with different levels of star-rated accommodation under one roof, while restaurants in Time Square include Guy Fieri's Kitchen and Bar.

**Zuri Zanzibar** is due to open in May on the northwest shores of Unguja. The 13-acre beachfront resort has 55 bungalows, villas and suites overlooking the resort's private beach and have been designed by Jestic+Whites. Zuri Zanzibar will be a member of Design Hotels. Meanwhile, **Essque Zalu Zanzibar** has launched a Swahili cook school, the Masha Cookery Studio.

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