THE WIRE

TRAVEL HOTSPOTS for 2019

We asked travel expert Rory Pilkington of Bailey Robinson to shine the spotlight on this year's top destinations. Perhaps unexpected, and a little bold, these countries are at the ready to be explored...and to make sure you are fully prepared, don't forget to pack some of the latest 'on the move' products!



Most of us know some of *Colombia's* troubled history, but this plucky country has now shaken off its past and has emerged as a peaceful nation whose varied landscapes oscillate between the Andes and the Amazon. The natural world will astound you—Colombia has the biggest quotient of bird species in the world and the cloud forest hums with bio-diversity from butterflies to jaguars. The best bit? The resilient and friendly Colombian people, who can't wait to show you around their buzzy cities thrumming with salsa, oh-so-green coffee plantations and tropical Caribbean beaches. There's even a lost city, rising out of dense jungle.



British lifestyle brand Look & Cover just launched with an elegant collection of monogrammed pyjamas, perfect packing items for a special holiday or slipping on during a long-haul flight.

www.lookandcover.co.uk





A country of shimmering jungle where rare wildlife hides among ancient Mayan ruins and jewel-like islands sparkle in the Caribbean Sea. *Belize* can show you an untamed nature ripe for exploration, with luxury eco-lodges to lay your head. There are increasingly few destinations in the world where you feel like you're in uncharted territories. Where the jungle embraces you with its sights and smells and cacophony of sounds. Where you can come eye to eye in the ocean with a turtle, then emerge to find lunch cooked by a gourmet chef on the beach. Where crowds are absent, and the cares of modern-day life melt away.

Briggs & Riley's Sympatico suitcase collection

Briggs & Riley's Sympatico collection comes with a lifetime guarantee and is the first and only hard-sided suitcase collection in the world with CXTM Expansion-Compression Technology, allowing up to 25 percent more packing space. www.briggs-riley.com





With a clutch of Six Senses hotels due to open up across the width of *Bhutan* in early 2019, there's a new way to get under the skin of this spiritual Himalayan kingdom. With tourism still very much the preserve of the few, Six Senses will join the ranks of Como and Aman already established in Bhutan. On your journey, expect to be blessed by resident monks, enjoy soothing footbaths and succumb to evenings of meditation overlooking forested gorges and jagged-toothed mountains. You'll also have more than your fill of temples that cling unfeasibly to the craggy clifftops, wrapped by colourful prayer flags dancing with the wind.

PRO CHANGE JACKET

Shield yourself from the elements with this PRO jacket, a robe designed with outdoor adventures in mind. Fully protects against even the harshest of conditions whether you are changing out of wet kit or keeping warm before, between and after sessions on the water, pitch or track. www.redoriginal.com





We think *Jordan* deserves a lot more attention than it gets. This jewel in the Middle Eastern crown has been welcoming visitors since the Nabataean tradesmen of the 4th century. Millenia later, we appreciate that antiquity, empty deserts and the iridescent Red Sea waters make for a fascinating and rewarding holiday. Don't miss the pinkyhued ancient wonders of Petra, hidden in a sandy-floored, steep-sided gorge, which looks like something out of a movie set. Then head south to the ever-shifting sand dunes of Wadi Rum, ripe for desert solitude or camel trekking. End in the hilly city of Amman that has its own historic citadel and is speckled with ancient ruins and filled with thriving restaurants serving authentic Middle Eastern cuisine.

Ushvani Balm

Ushvani's amazing balm is renowned for being the perfect accompaniment on a flight and when travelling. www.ushvani.com





Often overlooked in favour of all-in-one South Africa or the verdant waterways of neighbouring Botswana, *Namibia's* sparse beauty is starting to draw visitors who seek to find a connection within its wild, raw landscapes. It's a country of huge extremes from the largest sand dunes in the world to the ever-changing Namib desert, which translates as 'vast place'. And now a selection of new, extraordinary places to stay that exemplify the highest eco-credentials, are making Namibia a destination in its own right. Sleep in remote wilderness lodges and visit the exotic Himba tribe, take dawn desert safaris to see giant dunes turn a bright tangerine red, or track desert-adapted elephants. A deep-rooted connection with Namibia will come easily.

Ecoffee Cup

Ecoffee Cup is sturdy, light, has a resealable 'drip proof' lid, is fully dishwasher safe and, because bamboo is naturally sterile, it doesn't flavour-taint drinks, unlike some other reusables.

www.ecoffeecub.eco



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Keep your eyes peeled for Got Issues 8

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