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Where to Go **NEXT?**

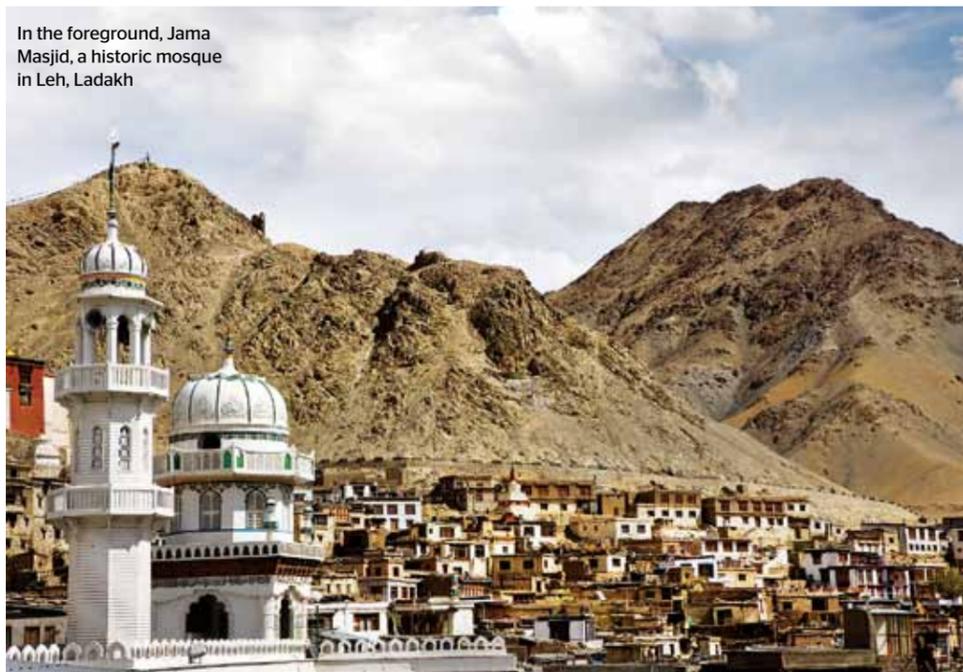
We put that perennial question to top executives at leading global outfitters who visit every corner of the world as part of their jobs.

With the start of the new year, resolve to visit at least one of the **eight intriguing destinations** these pros recommend now.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC

Exotic hot springs
in Beppu, Japan,
on Kyushu Island

FRANCIGUZZIO/HENIS/CORBIS



In the foreground, Jama Masjid, a historic mosque in Leh, Ladakh

On Carole Cambata's radar
LADAKH, INDIA

"One of my favorite areas is Ladakh in the northern part of India, which is nothing like the rest of India. It's very rugged, and the accommodations are much simpler. There are amazing, living, breathing, and **working monasteries** you can visit. A new traveling camp has recently opened up that has tented accommodations but with four-poster beds, air conditioning, heat, and a working bathroom, so it's not like any camping you've ever done."



About Cambata, president of Greaves Tours
In 1981, England-born Cambata joined Greaves, a specialist in tailor-made and small-group tours to India.



On Philippe Brown's radar

Northeastern Afghanistan

Home to **nomadic people** and appealing to hikers, the Wakhan Corridor is an approximately 140-mile-long panhandle to China. "It's an incredibly safe part of the country, and **stunningly beautiful**. You need time to access the area by a long drive or helicopter from Turkmenistan, but if you do it right you have an advance team set up yurts ahead of time."



About Brown, founder of Brown + Hudson
A former independent guide and Butterfield & Robinson veteran, London-based Brown opened Brown + Hudson seven years ago to offer creative custom itineraries that might replicate James Bond training or introduce political junkies to Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa.

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Cartagena's colorful architecture

On Emmanuel Burgio's radar

Colombia

"Colombia is new to high-end tourism," says Burgio, who recently launched operations there, basing clients at private estates in regions that lack luxury hotels such as the Coffee Triangle in the highlands. "The landscape is stunning in the Andes with **60-meter palm trees** that grow nowhere else. Like wine trips in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, we meet coffee-estate owners and get to understand the process." He bookends trips with visits to **cultural Bogota** and **historic Cartagena**, with optional extensions to the tropical Rosario Islands.



About Burgio, founder and CEO of Blue Parallel
A former New York investment banker, Burgio founded Blue Parallel in 2002 to offer travel expertise to clients similar to his demanding ex-bosses. Born in Holland, raised in France, and based in Buenos Aires, Burgio specializes in Latin America and recently branched into the Mediterranean.



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On Cari Gray's radar
URUGUAY

"South America is of big appeal because it's an overnight flight from the U.S. and you don't suffer from jet lag," Gray says. Owned by arts benefactors who have filled their three new hotels with precious pieces, **Vik Hotels** in the coastal town of José Ignacio near Punta del Este on the Uruguayan coast have pushed Uruguay ahead of Chile and Argentina for luxury. After **rides along the dunes** and in the open countryside, she adds, "Now there are great places to stay."



About Gray, founder of Gray & Co.
A 14-year veteran of Butterfield & Robinson, Gray left the company in 2008 to open her own business, a custom specialist in high-end cycling and hiking trips.



An artisan soaking tub at the Estancia Vik José Ignacio near Punta del Este in Uruguay



Detail from the ruins of Persepolis near Shiraz, Iran

On Norman Howe's radar Iran

"There's still a question whether Iran will stabilize, but it seems like it's opening up," says Howe. His company just sent an advance crew to the country to gauge the quality of its accommodations and transportation. "It has an incredible, rich history in terms of the Persian empire and **UNESCO World Heritage sites**. It sounds like it has a sense of being uncorrupted, or untouched by mass tourism."



About Howe, president of Butterfield & Robison

Howe began his travel career as a guide in places such as Myanmar and New Zealand for Butterfield & Robison, the Toronto-based luxury specialist in biking and walking trips, where he has spent most of the past 20 years.

On Geoffrey Kent's radar

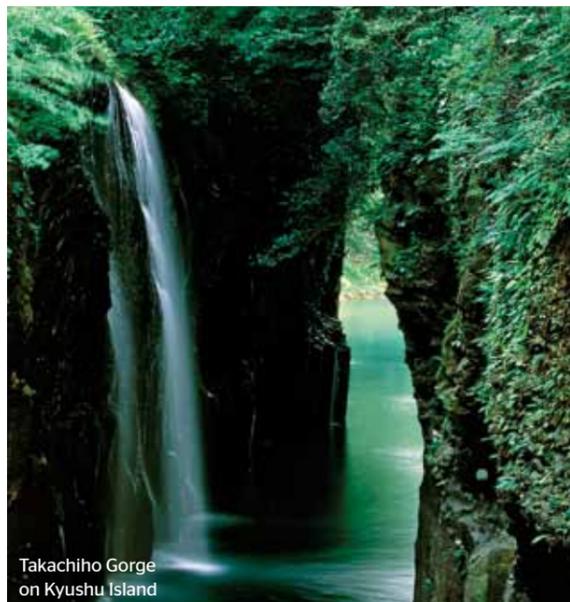
SRI LANKA

Noting a trickle of new luxury hotels on Sri Lanka, the island nation in the Indian Ocean southeast of India, Abercrombie & Kent recently opened an office there. "Successive waves of Indian, Arab, and European traders flocked to Sri Lanka's palm-fringed shores, attracted by precious stones, **rare spices**, and magnificent elephants," Kent says. "Ancient cities, **tea plantations**, and hill stations vie for attention alongside eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. There are great beaches and national parks with an abundance of wildlife, especially leopard and elephant."



About Kent, founder, chairman, and CEO of Abercrombie & Kent

Born while his parents were on safari, this globe-trotting Kenya native, who once traveled by motorbike 3,100 miles from Nairobi to Cape Town, set the standard for luxury adventure travel when he founded A&K in 1962.



Takachiho Gorge on Kyushu Island

On Jacqui Lewis' radar

Kyushu Island, Japan

"We've been seeing incredible demand for Japan. The weakening yen makes it a much better value than it has been, and a lot of it can be done as self-drive trips." Fear not if you can't read the Japanese road signs; Audley Travel sends detailed directions, including pictures of signs that may be indecipherable. "One of the places we're seeing interest in is Kyushu, one of Japan's southernmost islands with lots of **interesting history**. It's the home of Nagasaki, it's easy to drive around, and it has hot springs, **amazing scenery**, and great porcelain production."



About Lewis, president and managing director of Audley Travel U.S.

As a student in 1989, Lewis founded her first travel company in her dorm room at Penn State. After joining the British custom travel company Audley in 2013, she launched its first American office last year, using country specialists to design trips to destinations across the globe for independent travelers.



On George Morgan-Grenville's radar

RURAL CAMBODIA

"Cambodia is starting to open up," he says, citing the Koh Kong Province bordering eastern Thailand. "There's a really fun hotel called 4 Rivers Floating Lodge in an **ancient rain forest** where you can walk into the Cardamom Mountains and kayak along the Tatai River to visit local villages." The area is home to Javan rhinoceroses, gibbons, and hundreds of species of birds. "The magic of a journey like this is experiencing the metamorphosis from the cultural aspect to the more natural side of Cambodia. Then you can drive down the coast to Ream National Park to experience a **private beach safari** using African-style safari tents, where you can dine under the stars with your own chef and waiter."



About Morgan-Grenville, founder and CEO of Red Savannah

In 2010, after 21 years at Abercrombie & Kent, England-based Morgan-Grenville established Red Savannah, offering custom worldwide itineraries and luxury villa rentals in Europe and the Caribbean. An accomplished skier, diver, and pilot, Morgan-Grenville has accompanied Britain's Prince Charles in the Himalayas and on safari in Tanzania.



4 Rivers Floating Lodge

IZZET KERIBAR/GETTY IMAGES (IRAN); LOOK DIE BILDAGENTUR DER FOTOGRAFEN GMBH/ALAMY (WATERFALL)

