

INSPIRATION • DECEMBER 2019

# WHERE WE WENT; WHERE WE'RE GOING NEXT



It's that time of year again, as *The Club's* jet-setting team reminisce on another year of memorable trips, and think ahead to destinations yet undiscovered. From the middle of the mountains to cities that never sleep, here are our favourite destinations of 2019, and the travel agenda we're plotting for the year ahead

## Latest articles

Exclusive Club offers

20 new hotels for 2020: the hotlist

Elizabeth Haigh's foodie guide to Singapore

How BA helps Santa Claus deliver Christmas



## 1 Laax, Switzerland

**Says who:** [Hannah Ralph](#), *The Club* content editor

**Dreamiest trip of 2019:** [Laax](#), where the air smells like pine and the pasta tastes like Christmas (that's *raviuls da trin* for the unacquainted: a local dish packing in sweetly dried pears, melted butter, mountain cheese and honey). But for all the *röstis*, raclettes and cheese-induced cholesterol spikes, Laax's talent for high-octane activity balances things out. Just two hours from [Zurich](#), you can e-bike through *Hansel and Gretel* forests, scale Switzerland's [oldest surviving via ferrata](#) and hike to a geological wonder, the Unesco-protected [Sardona Tectonic Arena](#). And don't forget your cossie – the emerald-green lakes (Cresta and Caumasee, in particular) make for a wildly stunning swim.

**Where next:** I'm eager to explore the Pacific North West, so hopefully a road trip around Washington State and up to [Vancouver](#), starting in [Seattle](#).



TAKE ME TO SWITZERLAND



MARRIOTT  
**BONVOY**

Register for Marriott Bonvoy™ Unlock More.  
Get 2K bonus points after two hotel stays.  
Then unlock an additional offer.

**JOIN & REGISTER**



## 2 San Sebastian, Spain

Says who: [Kat Knight](#), *The Club* account director

**Dreamiest trip of 2019:** Food writers, Instagrammers and colleagues had all showered the [Basque](#) town of San Sebastian with praise, and, spoiler: they had good reason. Every bite from the Michelin-starred restaurants (San Sebastian is second only to [Kyoto](#) for the most stars per capita) is extraordinary. Best mouthfuls included red wine-braised ox cheek and traditional *marmitako* (a Basque tuna stew), washed down with a glug of local white wine at one of the many *pintxo* bars that dot glorious La Concha bay.

**Where next:** [Singapore](#) – I go at least once a year and always bed down at [Mandarin Oriental, Singapore](#). The views of the bay are spectacular.



TAKE ME TO THE BASQUE COUNTRY







### 3 Charleston, USA

Says who: [Ross Clarke](#), *The Club* contributing editor

**Dreamiest trip of 2019:** When British Airways announced it was launching flights to [Charleston](#) this spring, I knew I had to make the hop across the pond. The South Carolina city has history in spades – from the famous Rainbow Row to National Monument [Fort Sumter](#) – but, as ever, it was the food scene that had me hooked. Staying at the plush (and super central) [Belmond Charleston Place](#) meant tucking into gourmet crab cakes at the exceptional [Charleston Grill](#), while, only two blocks away, [Jestine's](#) is *the* place for the classic southern trio: fried chicken, collard greens and cornbread.

**Where next:** Island hopping the Canary Islands, stopping on blissfully unspoilt La Graciosa – the newest official island in the Spanish archipelago – just off the north coast of [Lanzarote](#). Although formed some 15 million years ago, it only received its official legal status as a stand-alone island last year.



TAKE ME TO CHARLESTON



### 4 Stockholm, Sweden

Says who: [Charlotte Swift](#), editor of *The Club*

**Dreamiest trip of 2019:** Satisfying my wanderlust with a three-year-old in tow certainly brings new challenges. Scandinavia is so child-friendly that you can pretty much go

anywhere and be guaranteed a great family adventure, so I shouldn't have been surprised by [Stockholm](#)'s abundance of child-friendly activities. Its waterfront location means island-hopping boat rides, walks over pretty bridges and, in summer, bracing swims. The maritime theme continues in the [Vasa Museum](#), where the ship which spent 333 years on the seabed has plenty to enthral all ages. At Skansen, the world's first open-air museum, you can explore traditional houses then at its Nordic zoo see brown bears, wolves, reindeer and other native creatures.

**Where next:** More boat trips but this time in the [Greek islands](#) – [Mykonos](#), [Santorini](#) and little ones in between – for some early European spring sunshine.



TAKE ME TO STOCKHOLM



## 5 New York, USA

Says who: [Carl Harrison](#), *The Club* picture editor

**Dreamiest trip of 2019:** I'd been to [New York](#) a few times before, but had always managed to miss the Bowery, wedged as it is between the East Village, Chinatown and the Lower East Side. That all changed this year with a stay at the [CitizenM New York Bowery](#) hotel – a stylish and buzzy bolthole perfect for solo travellers. As well as a skyline-hugging [rooftop cocktail bar](#) (open to all), the hotel embodies the artistic heritage of its colourful neighbourhood with an in-house [Museum of Street Art](#) (MoSA), featuring specially commissioned works.

**Where next:** I've got my eye on a trip to [Bangalore](#) to visit the new [Museum of Art and Photography](#) scheduled to open early next year. Designed by architect Soumitro Ghosh, it's billed to be India's biggest museum of photography, spread across five floors.



TAKE ME TO NEW YORK

EXCLUSIVE EXECUTIVE CLUB OFFERS

Get a complimentary room upgrade



## Get a complimentary room upgrade at Belmond Charleston Place, Charleston

Slap bang in Charleston's thriving Historic Downtown District, [Belmond Charleston Place](#) is the address for cosmopolitan visitors to South Carolina's most charming city.

Home to two award-winning restaurants, a full-service business centre and a rooftop swimming pool, Belmond Charleston Place is offering Members who book a Deluxe Room (Premier King Room, Premier Double Room or Junior Suite) a complimentary upgrade to a One Bedroom Suite. Valid on bookings made before 12 January 2020, on stays taken between 29 March and 30 September 2020. For full terms and conditions, [click here](#)



[BOOK NOW](#)

[Like The Club? Let us know](#)

This article has been tagged [Destination](#), [Travel Tips](#)

## More from previous issues



**ADVENTURE**

### What's new in the ski world for winter 2019

Follow us into the powder-soft slopes of North America, the Alps and Scandinavia, as our expert takes a look at what's hot in the world's coolest places



**BA**

### The best of BA news

A new route launch to Turkey's Turquoise Coast is announced for spring 2020, the A350 takes off to Toronto, plus the airline commits to offsetting carbon emissions on domestic flights



**DESTINATION**

### Seven enchanting ice-skating rinks

Winter brings ice, and ice brings fun, so where better to get your skates on than at any of these ice-skating rinks, from Canada to Hungary



**DESTINATION**

### Austria for every kind of traveller

With a classical music heritage, delicious sweet treats and the white peaks of the Alps as a backdrop, Austria has all the wonders you could wish

