

GENTRY

# DESTINATIONS

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Gstaad Palace

## Travel Trends

Just when you think luxury amenities are already over the top, we've uncovered some outrageous (and not-to-be-missed) travel incentives. Here we share top emerging trends out of the hospitality industry, from sweet dessert bikes to interactive charitable initiatives.

**What's out:** *Average Amenities*  
**What's in:** *Revved-up Rentals*

High-end hotels and resorts often have cars available for their guests to rent during their stay, but these days guests can rent just about anything their hearts desire. For instance, men can pack light the next time they visit Washington, D.C. **The Darcy**, the district's newest boutique hotel, in partnership with local menswear designer READ WALL, offers accessories like cufflinks and neckties available on-loan for nights out on the town. In southern California, **Montage Laguna Beach** indulges their guests' inner rock star through its "Coastal Chords" program, which provides Taylor Koa G5 Mini Guitars for guests to rent and play during their stay. Not to be outdone, **Gstaad Palace** in Switzerland offers visiting cheese enthusiasts an opportunity to rent their own cow through a partnership with the

Perreten family, owners of an organic dairy farm in neighboring Feutersonoy. After a private tour of the farm, guests will meet their bovine friend, get a hands-on lesson in the art of Swiss cheese-making, and leave laden with 10kg of fine alpine cheese made from their cow's milk (not to mention quite a story to tell back home).

**What's out:** *Food Carts*  
**What's in:** *Sweet Treat Bikes*

Food carts were once all the rage, but now resorts are putting a sweet spin on the dining on-the-go experience with custom bicycles decked out with treats. **Montage Palmetto Bluff** in coastal South Carolina boasts its own S'mores Bicycle Cart with six bins of flavored and classic marshmallows as well as roasting sticks, a tray for graham crackers, and a mini-refrigerator for their house-made milk chocolate and dark

chocolate. Guests at **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa** cool down with the resort's Ice Cream Bicycle Cart. Popular with all ages, the bicycle is stationed at the newly renovated pool deck with Häagen-Dazs ice cream and do-it-yourself snow cones. In Burlington, **Hotel Vermont** is taking sweet sips to the streets with the hotel's Icycle Tricycle serving refreshingly sweet cocktails blended with the hotel's signature gin and vodka as well as housemade tonics.

**What's out:** *Farm-To-Table*  
**What's in:** *Farm-To-Massage-Table*

Luxury spas are putting a local spin on their spa menu, introducing exclusive treatments and services featuring ingredients sourced onsite. **The Springs Eternal Spa** at Omni Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, Pennsylvania, uses only water from the resort's own natural



springs, renowned for their restorative powers since the land was inhabited by Native Americans centuries ago. More than 100 native olive trees can be found on Isola delle Rose, the private island of **JW Marriott's Venice Resort & Spa**, which creates its own exclusive olive oil for the Mediterranean Bliss Treatment at **GOCO Spa**. **Ikal Spa** at InterConti-



The Dolder Grand

ental Presidente Cancun Resort pamper guests with its Signature Mayan Honey Exfoliation mixed with local indigenous honey and fresh yogurt, while **Na Spa**, opening in 2018 at Sailrock Resort on South Caicos in Turks and Caicos, will offer a salt scrub that gets its main ingredient from the island's historic salt flats.

**What's out:** *Parents' Night Out*  
**What's in:** *Family Night Ins*

For a low-key evening, destinations around the world are offering in-room programming and experiences that invite families to have a memorable night in. In Switzerland, **The Dolder Grand** in Zurich recently began offering the Live Escape Game, an all-ages mystery that gives families 60 minutes to solve a riddle as they try to "escape" from one of the hotel's guest rooms. After soaking up the sun, families staying in **Eden Roc** at Cap Cana's new beachfront suites can arrange for a private family movie night catered by the hotel's culinary team where a private chef will prepare dinner, dessert, and, of course, movie snacks. Family movie night has taken on a whole new meaning at **Tryall Club** in Montego Bay, Jamaica, with a

private home movie theater for guests to enjoy at select luxury villas.

**What's out:** *Kids' Clubs*  
**What's in:** *Kids' Charities*

More and more hospitality brands have adopted charitable initiatives designed to benefit the children of the villages and communities they visit during guest tours or safaris. For example, **Nomadic Expeditions** encourages guests to participate in "Pack for a Purpose," which benefits children in nomadic communities throughout Mongolia by providing supplies for education, healthcare, and music. Eco tourism company **Wilderness Safaris** sponsors nonprofit Children in the Wilderness and its environmental and life skills educational program. **The Bushcamp Company**, which runs a small collection of camps in Zambia's South Luangwa National Park, supports local schools by sponsoring students, paying teachers' salaries, building classrooms and staff houses, and hosting game drives for students. So, if you're planning a wilderness vacation, consider outfitters like these that may not have "kids' clubs," but are supporting kids' charities instead. —MAYA SHYDLOWSKI



## Hitting the Road

A FEW OF THE HOTTEST MOBILE APPS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRIP.

Heading to Tahoe? How about Vegas? Driving down for a weekend getaway in L.A.? *Condé Nast Traveler* suggests several mobile apps for road-trippers seeking the best ride of their lives. First, when planning and organizing your journey, you may want to download **Roadtrippers**. This app allows you to type in your departure and arrival locations (plus any intended stops) and then provides a map from start to finish with "pins" indicating interesting stops along the way—whether an iconic restaurant, a must-see monument, or an awe-inspiring natural wonder.

For those of you packing up your Tesla, **Plugshare** offers a database of more than 50,000 electric vehicle charging stations across the country. No need to test the limits of your electric car when you can enter your trip route before you leave and ensure you're never stuck without a place to recharge.

Of course, a road trip isn't a road trip if you don't stop to eat every few hours. **iExit** lets you type in what kind of food you fancy, then matches you with options located along your upcoming exits. Additionally, iExit collaborates with **GasBuddy** to give you a list of nearby gas stations and their prices in case you need to refuel, as well as with YELP for restaurant reviews, and the **Travel Coupons** app for discounts on lodging. There's even an app for finding the cleanest toilets along your journey. Consider **Flush Toilet Finder** a pseudo YELP for restrooms. The app provides ratings for more than 200,000 bathrooms in its database. And speaking of urgent matters, **Urgent.ly** is the perfect app for road-trippers without a Triple A membership. If you need roadside assistance, this app locates services like towing, lock-out, battery jump-starts, fuel delivery, or a tire change.

With these apps in your pocket, the road stretching out before you is bound to be smooth. Just remember the car charger for your mobile device!

—MAYA SHYDLOWSKI