Beaches barely touched by human feet? Check.
Business hubs reborn as cultural capitals? Indeed.
Chances for awe-inspiring adventure? Bingo.
Here are 21 destinations to add to your list this year—and when it's best to check them off.
Ditch the Sweet Tea in Savannah

Long an artsy also-ran to Charleston, S.C., Savannah, Ga., has a food scene that’s emerging into the national spotlight thanks to the Grey—once a segregated bus station, now an African-inspired restaurant serving Senegalese-spiced lamb and curried roast chicken. The team behind it has recently opened the Grey Market, a lunch-counter-slash-general-store. (Get the Sizzlin’ Smoky Pig sandwich served with an egg and pepper relish.) On the retail front, alumni from the Savannah College of Art and Design, which is celebrating its 40th year, have been sticking around after graduation to start exciting businesses, including leather maker Satchel and honey purveyor Savannah Bee Co. And now travelers can upgrade from small, Southern-style inns and B&Bs, if they wish: The Perry Lane arrived in the Historic District last June—it’s the city’s first high-luxury hotel, with 167 individually designed rooms. That was followed by the midcentury-styled Alida Hotel on the riverfront. A little farther east, a JW Marriott will open in an abandoned, century-old power plant. It will be surrounded by 4.5 acres of restaurants, shops, concert halls, and art galleries that, along with the hotel, represent a combined investment of roughly a half a billion dollars.

RESOLUTION NO. 1
Challenge Your Preconceptions

Chad, a Central African country that was once a hotbed for poachers, is emerging as the continent’s model for successful conservation. In Zakouma National Park, all Big Five species have been reintroduced after a long-term investment by African Parks, an organization over which Prince Harry presides. Where to stay? Camp Hadada, a fully mobile, six-tent camp that will be harder to book in 2020, when it begins limiting reservations to travelers making philanthropic donations. To another universe altogether, consider a stop in Kuala Lumpur. The staid business hub is blossoming into a legal lifestyle destination because of a sudden boom in high-end lodging and restaurants, including the 250-room Raffles Hotel & Residences and Dewakon, a modern, Malaysian dining spot. The city is also anticipating a new 36-building financial district; its Exchange 106 skyscraper will be Southeast Asia’s tallest at 1,814 feet.
Discover New Ways to Love Paris

The City of Light never needs a sales pitch, but 2019 brings several museums that may lure you away from the typical attractions. When the Gabrielle Chanel Rooms open later this year on the lower level of the Palais Galliera, the $6.5 million space will be the first to permanently showcase multiple fashion designers. (The House of Chanel has largely financed it.) Also in 2019, the Pinault Collection will be unveiled at the Bourse de Commerce, a 250-year-old structure inspired by the Pantheon. After more than a decade of work by Japanese architect Tadao Ando, it’s now a temple to contemporary art. It will include 3,000 works from the personal collection of François Pinault, the billionaire founder of Kering, and a restaurant run by the father-and-son team of Michel and Sébastien Bras—all a stone’s throw from the Louvre. As for where to sleep, skip the palace hotels for one of the 30 rooms at J.K. Place, an Italian boutique brand known for drawing the cool crowd wherever it goes. This spring it’s importing its signature residential appeal (along with a Sisley spa and an indoor pool) to the Left Bank, near the Musée d’Orsay.

Lift Off in Houston

Spring will be stellar in Space City. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, the Johnson Space Center is restoring everything inside the original Mission Control—down to the consoles and the trash cans—to look exactly as it did in July 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission. Closer to downtown, the Museum of Fine Arts is wrapping up a $450 million expansion that added a roof garden, an amphitheater, and a public plaza; the Holocaust Museum will relocate and double its size by summer. And because everything is bigger in Texas, the city is welcoming not one, not two, but four jumbo food courts, including the 9,000-square-foot Bravery Chef Hall. Culinary talent here will focus on piloting new concepts, including a wood-oven steakhouse from famed cattle rancher Felix Florez and a pasta joint from Ben McPherson, an expert in the art of fried chicken. Fine lodging options are also taking flight. Joining the city’s recently renovated Four Seasons is the year-old Post Oak—which has the benefit of not being attached to a convention center—and InterContinental and a Thompson.

Pop Into Posh England

Next time you land at Heathrow, take the train away from London rather than toward it. Within an hour, you’ll arrive at one of Europe’s buzziest new hotels: Heckfield Place, a Georgian manor house in Hampshire that finally opened in the fall after a six-year delay. The wait was worth it, particularly for foodies, who can enjoy rustic, open-fire meals by chef Skye Gyngell of London’s acclaimed Spring. Ingredients come from its farm and gardens. For a more tranquil experience, visit Monkey Island Estate, in the middle of the Thames near the jewel-like village of Bray.

Reachable by footbridge or boat, the island has been the haunt of monks, aristocrats, and artists during its 800-year history. After falling into disrepair in the 1980s, it’s been revitalized as a swanky guesthouse with a decadent afternoon tea and 41 rooms designed by Alexandra Champalimaud. If you’re after a more traditional Downton Abbey vibe, try the House at Beaverbrook in Surrey. Its $90 million renovation preserved old-world flourishes such as a 1920s-style brass bar, waistcoated servers, and 18 rooms named for famous guests like Elizabeth Taylor and Winston Churchill.