

# VIRTUOSO LIFE



THOROUGHLY MODERN  
MEXICO CITY:  
Museo Soumaya.

THE BIG IDEAS ISSUE  
**READY, SET, GO!**  
18 DESTINATIONS FOR 2018



WORLD AWAITS  
WHY TRY?

# where



# next

18 places to go in 2018.

BY AMY CASSELL

If we could bottle the thrill of touching down in a new destination, we would. We're always searching for great getaways to add to our list, and this year they include a Greek island without the crowds, newly accessible natural wonders in Colombia, and Scandinavia's coolest hot spot. So get packing: It doesn't matter if your travel speed is "toes in the sand" or "take me to the summit" – **it's time to go.**



EYEEM/GETTY IMAGES

where next: **adventure time**

# colombia

Latin America's new ecotourism outpost.

**Colombia is a wonderland of biodiversity:** One out of every ten species found in the world thrives here. After a half century of civil war, a 2016 accord between the government and the jungle-based Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has introduced a new era of peace to the country – great news for Colombians *and* sustainably minded travelers. More than 50 parks and reserves once deemed war zones are reopening, revealing rainbow-hued rivers and beautiful alpine lakes. Start your eco-exploration at Tayrona National Natural Park, where tropical cloud forest tumbles down to the Caribbean, before heading inland to explore Ciudad Perdida's ninth-century ruins. Then fly to Utría National Park on the country's west coast for treks through lush emerald forests, led by indigenous guides.

– *Costas Christ, Virtuoso global strategist, sustainability*

**60: Big Five Tours & Expeditions**, a leader in promoting peace through tourism in Colombia, can create a custom coast-to-coast eco-adventure that includes the parks mentioned above, plus coffee plantations, colonial cities, and more. *Departures: Any day through 2018; from \$400 per person per day.*



A Big Sur hike payoff: McWay Falls.

## big sur

Landslides damaged roads and made Big Sur's redwood forests and cinematic coastline largely inaccessible for most of last year (**Post Ranch Inn** helicoptered guests in), but parts of California's Highway 1 reopened in October, ushering in the area's newest addition. The former Ventana Inn & Spa reemerged as the 59-room **Ventana Big Sur**, with updated accommodations, an art gallery, 15 glamping tents, and an activity center offering beekeeping lessons and guided photography treks. "I love spending hours hiking in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park," says San Francisco-based

advisor Michelle Murré. "The McWay Falls overlook, just under a mile from the highway, is one of its most beautiful sights." *Ventana doubles from \$675, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

## northern iceland

Iceland's next big attractions are far from the famed Blue Lagoon: inland to the remote Fjallabak Nature Reserve and north to quiet coastal towns such as Husavik. Travel to the Land of Fire and Ice is up fivefold since 2010, and Iceland is the top emerging destination in **Virtuoso's 2018 Luxe Report**, an annual trend survey of travel

advisors. The key to having untouched glaciers and dramatic vistas to yourself is to go beyond the Ring Road, to areas still relatively undiscovered by tourists. "Some of the country's remote wilderness areas don't have signs or protective measures for visitors, so it's best to explore them with a guide," says Chicago-based travel advisor Olya Kiriukhina. One off-the-beaten-path idea: **Backroads'** six-day northern Iceland trip, which includes hiking along Eyjafjörður, whale-watching off the coast of Husavik, and biking through some of the area's most charming fishing villages. *Departures: July 1, August 26, and September 2; from \$4,798.*

