

5 HOTTEST DESTINATIONS FOR TRAVEL IN 2017

Is 'more travel' on your list of new year's resolutions, but you're not sure exactly where you'll be headed? Perhaps this list can help. From the in-your-backyard destinations to the far, far away, here are some of the world's must-see spots for 2017. **LOREN CHRISTIE/FOR METRO**



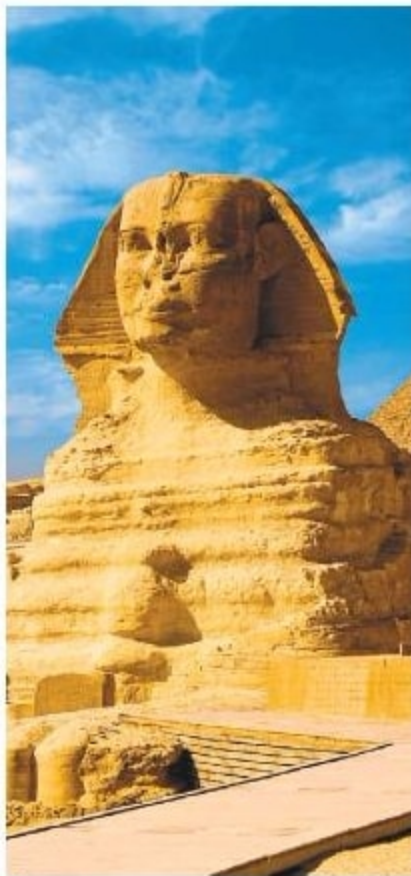
1 Portugal

Due to cheap hotel rates and mouth-watering cuisine, Portugal has risen to the top of many travellers' lists. Air Transat is increasing its direct flight service from Montreal and Toronto to both Porto and Lisbon and Air Canada Rouge is adding new flights to the Portuguese capital in summer 2017. For foodies, Exodus Travels has launched a collection of guilt-free vacations for people who want to hike, eat and drink their way through Portugal's Douro Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its award-winning wine.



2 Iceland

Thanks to its stunning and varied natural beauty — and a series of viral ad campaigns — Iceland continues to be a top draw. Research by youth travel operator Contiki has revealed that the most desired travel experience for 18-35 year olds in Canada is to bathe in Iceland's famous Blue Lagoon. And if you think the idea of bathing with 50 other people at one time is a bit unsanitary, rest assured that the water is self-cleansing and renews itself every 40 hours.



3 Egypt

G Adventures reports an eight per cent increase in travellers year over year heading to Egypt. Although numbers aren't what they were pre-revolution, it's a great time to visit some of the world's most historic monuments while avoiding the crowds and helping this former tourism giant get back on its feet. Built over 5,000 years ago, the oldest and largest of the pyramids of Giza, the Great Pyramid, is the only surviving structure of the seven ancient wonders of the world.



4 Cambodia

A recent survey by Booking.com ranks Cambodia as a top pick for 2017. The recent discovery of an ancient city below the stunning temple complex of Angkor Wat has further heightened interest among Canadians. Before you go check out, *First They Killed My Father*, a biography about the Cambodian genocide directed by Angelina Jolie that is being released as a Netflix Original.



5 Canada

With the 150th anniversary of Confederation taking place there has never been a better time to explore your own backyard. The epicentre of action will be the nation's capital with more than 150 events planned throughout the year in Ottawa. However, there will be plenty going on all over the country, with national parks waving entrance fees for visitors and Montreal celebrating its own 375th anniversary, to name just a few festivities.