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GEOGRAPHIC

23RD ANNUAL
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TRAVELER

Nobody Knows This World Better
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

BEST

of THE WORLD
Must-See Places for 2012

ANDREW
McCARTHY'S
VIENNA

LIVING THE LOCAL LIFE PAGE 56

**ONE-ON-ONE
WITH KEN
BURNS**

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**ADVENTURE
IN BRAZIL**

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THE RIGHT STUFF

43 GREAT AIRPORT DISCOVERIES PAGE 92

COSTA BRAVA

CREATIVE COAST OF SPAIN

THE BOATS PAINTED in yellow, crimson, and white that bob in the water could belong to any scraggy Mediterranean coast. The polar bear that guards them, however, means only one thing: Salvador Dalí's home in Costa Brava. Dalí, one of art's greatest eccentrics, came from this part of Catalonia, in northeastern Spain. His giant eggs, swan fountains, and melting clocks drew inspiration from this sunshine-laced wilderness. Ferran Adrià, arguably the best chef in the world, pitched his game-changing restaurant overlooking another Costa Brava cove. The medieval city of Girona also overflows with creativity during its annual spring flower festival, the Temps de Flors. Surprising floral creations spill down cathedral steps and bloom-inspired art installations fill city squares and stone-walled courtyards.

Yet creativity carries with it the spirit of change, and Adrià has closed El Bulli to focus on a culinary academy/think tank due to open in 2014. In the meantime, Spain's wild-spirited coast will continue to enjoy its place in the sun. With or without a polar bear. —*Abigail King*



Diners at Cap de Creus Restaurant in Cadaqués get a front-row seat for dramatic coastal views.

best of the world

INSIDER TIPS TO PLAN YOUR TRIP

Belfast

The city inspired the likes of C. S. Lewis and Van Morrison, and its arts scene thrives. Events include the Belfast Film Festival (March 22-April 1, 2012) and the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival (May 3-13, 2012).

Colombia

Five- and six-day hiking packages to the Lost City are sold through travel agencies in Santa Marta (including Turcol, www.buritaca2000.com, from \$335). The trip is hot, wet, and steep.

Costa Brava, Spain

Hike from village to village along the coast on the more than 120-mile Camins de Ronda. The Hotel Aigua Blava in a private cove outside the town of Begur offers to send luggage ahead to the next village so you can hike unencumbered.

Dresden

Daily visitor numbers are limited at the Green Vault, the treasure chambers of August the Strong. To get a glimpse of rarities like the king's ruby-crusted shoe buckles, book online in advance: <https://ticket.hgg-skd.de/webshop/ticketshop>.

Greece

Sixty-four archaeological sites throughout Greece, including the Parthenon, now have extended opening hours. Monopatia Resort organizes foraging expeditions in Epirus with its executive chef.

Guatemala

Only a few blocks from the Chichicastenango market, the Santo Tomás Hotel has open-air corridors decorated with antique furniture and bouquets of fresh calla lilies.

Iceland

Take a break from fjords to take a bite of Iceland's version of a

hot dog, *pylsur*. The Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur kiosk near Reykjavik has been the best of the best from Belfast to Boston.

Istria

In the village of Poreč, Croatia, place to place to beer (T) brew of

Koh Lipe

Sunrise sustain Castaway treatment National and Sea-roofed

London

The Olympic London portable event v East En

Mongolia

Wind Horse runs eco-friendly

tented camps and expeditions along Mongolia's northern frontier. Guide: Humid Sanderson

Panama

New and soon to open hotels in Panama City include Westin Playa Bonita, Trump Ocean Club, and the Panamera, a Waldorf Astoria hotel.

Peru

Lima's La Mar Cebichería is Gastón Acurio's temple to one of Peru's most beloved national dishes, *seviche*. In Arequipa, the casual lunch joint La Capitana serves traditional fare like a spicy *rocoto relleno*.

Pittsburgh

The new Pittsburgh Public Mar-

Costa Brava, Spain

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road signs come with English translations, and gas stations are plentiful along the way.

plan your own trip to Virunga National Park in Congo, go to www.visitvirunga.org.



INTERNATIONAL MAPPING