

OUR AMERICAN STORY

FAMILY PORTRAITS OF RESILIENCE IN A YEAR OF VIOLENCE



Chui Fong Eng, 84, embraced by her family, is one of many Asian-American elders who have experienced the surge of attacks against AAPI communities

TIME

The World's 100 Greatest Places

The challenges of the past year and a half have transformed our world, and few industries have been as affected as travel, tourism and hospitality. In many ways, our third annual list of the World's Greatest Places is a tribute to the people and businesses at the forefront of those industries who, amid extraordinary circumstances, found ways to adapt, build and innovate. It shines a light on ingenuity, creativity, revitalization and reopenings in destinations across the world. To compile this list, TIME solicited nominations of places from our international network of correspondents and contributors, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences. The result: a list of 100 unique destinations, from the idyllic Portuguese town of Arouca, now home to the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, to the continent of Antarctica, which this December will experience a rare total solar eclipse. And while it may not be possible to safely visit each place just yet, they're all well worth reading (and dreaming) about until it's time, once again, to explore.

— FEATURING —

ACCRA, GHANA 84 / ANTARCTICA 68 / AROUCA, PORTUGAL 66 / ATHENS 82 / BANGKOK 71 / BATH, U.K. 65 / BEIJING 72 / BELIZE 76 / BENUERRA ISLAND, MOZAMBIQUE 73 / BERLIN 78 / BIG SKY, MONT. 89 / BODRUM, TURKEY 74 / CÁCERES, SPAIN 83 / CAIRO 62 / CANNES, FRANCE 76 / CHIMANIMANI NATIONAL PARK, MOZAMBIQUE 87 / CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND 78 / COIMBRA, PORTUGAL 62 / COSTA RICA 82 / DENVER 68 / DESARU COAST, MALAYSIA 67 / DESIGN DISTRICT, LONDON 84 / DUBAI 73 / EDINBURGH 62 / FAROE ISLANDS, DENMARK 72 / GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA 69 / GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN 71 / GRENADA 79 / GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA 81 / HANOI 84 / HELSINKI 86 / HO CHI MINH CITY 77 / HOKKAIDO, JAPAN 74 / HOUSTON 63 / HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK 84 / INDIANAPOLIS 81 / ISLAND OF HAWAII 76 / JAIPUR, INDIA 77 / JASPER, ALBERTA 80 / JOSÉ IGNACIO, URUGUAY 70 / KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK, THAILAND 83 / KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA 85 / KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA 73 / LA PAZ, MEXICO 78 / LAKE KHOVSGOL, MONGOLIA 66 / LAKE KIVU, RWANDA 78 / LAS VEGAS 72 / LIJIANG, CHINA 67 / LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA 65 / LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE 70 / LOS ANGELES 77 / MADRID 66 / MALDIVES 64 / MARRAKECH, MOROCCO 89 / MEMPHIS 85 / MENDOZA, ARGENTINA 76 / NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 64 / NEGEV DESERT, ISRAEL 63 / NEW ORLEANS 79 / NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, WEST VIRGINIA 76 / NEW YORK CITY 64 / NORTH GOA, INDIA 70 / NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND 75 / NUUK, GREENLAND 77 / ODENSE, DENMARK 66 / OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA 80 / ORLANDO 70 / OSAKA, JAPAN 71 / OSLO 84 / PARIS 87 / PATAGONIA NATIONAL PARK, CHILE 86 / PHILADELPHIA 80 / PHU QUOC, VIETNAM 67 / PUERTO ESCONDIDO, MEXICO 66 / QUITO, ECUADOR 71 / REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND 83 / ST. LOUIS 82 / SANTA FE, N.M. 78 / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN 85 / SÃO VICENTE, CAPE VERDE 75 / SARASOTA, FLA. 72 / SAVANNAH, GA. 64 / SEATTLE 86 / SIARGAO, PHILIPPINES 82 / SICILY, ITALY 65 / SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA 82 / SINGAPORE 88 / SOUTHERN CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, ROMANIA 85 / SYDNEY 74 / TAIPEI 64 / TALKEETNA, ALASKA 83 / TALLINN, ESTONIA 71 / TOKYO 79 / TUSCANY, ITALY 69 / UYUNI SALT FLATS, BOLIVIA 88 / VENICE 89 / VIRGIN GORDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 67 / WADI DANA, JORDAN 68 / WINNIPEG, MANITOBA 88 / ZURICH 88

With reporting by Leslie Dickstein, Mariah Espada, Alejandro de la Garza, Nik Popli, Madeline Roache and Simone Shah

Arouca, Portugal

Bridging the gap

With its white churches and tiled town square, Arouca, a Portuguese town an hour south of Porto, was already noted for its beauty. Now, thanks to the debut of **516 Arouca**, the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, Arouca is receiving global attention for its engineering. Made from steel cables, the 1,693-ft.-long structure is suspended 574 ft. above the **Paiva River**, a popular spot for rafting, and takes around 10 minutes to cross. The newly opened attraction can be found in **Arouca Geopark**, part of UNESCO's European Geoparks Network and known for its nature tourism and extreme-sports activities. The park also boasts a steep and zigzagging 5.1-mile-long wooden walking path; Roman and medieval ruins; and the **Monastery of Arouca**, one of the country's largest granite buildings.

—*Tamara Hardingham-Gill*



Lijiang, China

A launch point for adventure

With its ancient cobbled lanes and overlapping waterways, the Lijiang Old Town in Yunnan province, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, has long been a popular escape destination for China's city dwellers. The smoky flavors of dishes from the country's Naxi minority are popular with visitors, as is the selection of craft beers and cocktails in the charming pub **Stone the Crows**. And several new luxury hotels work to highlight the region's natural beauty. Among them: **Hylla Vintage Hotel** and **Cloud Nature Experience Center**, whose undulating, walkable roof mimics the rolling hills behind it; and **Hilton Lijiang**, which has its own hanging garden. Lijiang is also the main access point for **Tiger Leaping Gorge**—a spectacular hiking trail tracing the Jinsha River—which just reopened after a half-year closure for renovations.

—*Charlie Campbell*

Desaru Coast, Malaysia

A beach escape

The saying "If you build it, they will come" is very true of Desaru Coast, an ambitious new resort area in the state of Johor. Spanning more than 3,900 acres along a pristine 17-km stretch of beachfront real estate, the area offers some of Malaysia's most coveted luxury bolt-holes. In 2020, the **One&Only Desaru Coast**, the brand's first property in Asia, debuted as a spectacular tropical sanctuary with a spa and golf course. Also newly opened is the **Anantara Desaru Coast Resort and Villas**, with lush gardens and lagoon swimming pools. Other draws include championship golf courses and cruises through the **Sedili Wetlands**, a freshwater swamp home to the endangered water trumpet. The imminent opening of the **Desaru Coast Ferry Terminal** will offer increased transit options for Singapore and Indonesia.

—*Duncan Forgan*

VIRGIN GORDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Respite and renewal

After being hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, the British Virgin Islands are on the mend. And nowhere in the territory's approximately 60 islands and cays is the recovery more noticeable than in the North Sound on the northern coast of Virgin Gorda, home to several iconic island resorts. The Gorda Corridor sees the return of classic retreats including **Rosewood Little Dix Bay**, a family-friendly resort that offers seclusion along a mile-long beach, after a four-year closure and a multimillion-dollar renovation. **Saba Rock**, a small island (and beloved watering hole for boaters) that was previously closed because of hurricane damage, has been fully renovated and reopens in the fall as a nine-suite private resort. And neighboring **Bitter End Yacht Club**, also in the midst of rebuilding, plans to unveil a clutch of bungalows and a restaurant and bar by year's end, signaling, one hopes, a sweet start to 2022.

—*Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon*

PHU QUOC, VIETNAM

Idyllic paradise

Known as the "jewel of Vietnam," this teardrop-shaped resort and fishing island has become one of the fastest-growing destinations in Southeast Asia: in 2019, Phu Quoc attracted 5 million visitors, a 30% increase from the year before. It's expected to reopen to vaccinated international travelers in the fall, and continues to entice tourists with visa-free stays for up to 30 days. Lodging options abound: earlier this year, the expansive, 375-villa **New World Phu Quoc Resort**, which boasts a private stretch of beach and lush landscaped gardens, made its debut, as did the \$2.8 billion **Phu Quoc United Center**, a massive entertainment complex featuring a theme park, golf course and casino—in addition to a series of hotels. Nearby, the **Regent Phu Quoc**, a new ultra-luxury hotel with five swimming pools and floor-to-ceiling beach-facing windows, is expected to welcome its first guests by December.

—*Dan Q. Dao*