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# WHERE TO GO IN 2019

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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TRAVELERS'  
CHOICE  
WINNERS



Your guide to where, when, and how to travel this year.

# WHERE TO GO IN 2019

# AUTUMN

## LEBANON

New locally run guesthouses get travelers out of Beirut and into the countryside.

by Lindsey Tramuta

**WHEN TO GO** In autumn, it's cool enough to hike in Lebanon's cedar forests, yet still warm enough to spend time at the beach. Plus, harvest season—especially for grapes and olives—is in swing.

**WHY NOW** For years, it was virtually impossible to take more than a day trip beyond Beirut and Tripoli, Lebanon's biggest cities, simply because there was no place to spend the night. Then entrepreneur Orphée Haddad launched L'Hôte Libanais, **a collection of 22 small guesthouses in the capital and less-trafficked areas of the country**, all owned and run by locals. Each of the homes is selected for its preservation of Lebanese design and architecture, and each offers travelers more intimate access to locals.

For example, the home Zita Fidar, located near Byblos on the coast, regularly hosts art and music events; Dar Linda (pictured) is owned by a historian with a large collection of Lebanese handicrafts; and at Beit Douma, in the Batroun Mountains, cooks serve a traditional breakfast with produce plucked from the garden. L'Hôte's success has inspired a new wave of independent guesthouses, such as Beit Trad, a family mountain home in Kfour; and My Stone Cellar, an early 20th-century home with period interiors, in the ancient hilltop village of Douma.

**HOW TO GET THERE** One-stop flights to Beirut are available from most international airports in the United States. Private guides are recommended for excursions and visits outside of Beirut. Or book a tour: Taste Lebanon leads fully guided one- to seven-day culinary trips.

Spur Line Supply Co. sells handmade textiles, locally made ceramics, and vintage clothing.



## ALBUQUERQUE

New Mexico's largest city comes into its own.

by Nick Pachelli

**WHEN TO GO** The city gets 310 sunny days a year on average, but autumn, when temperatures cool and desert winds calm, is the season most New Mexicans live for.

**WHY NOW** Sure, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (October 5–13) draws travelers from all over the world, but **new offerings are putting this desert city on the traveler's go list** this year. A newly opened 50-mile trail for cyclists and hikers skirts the pink-toned Sandia Mountains, the Rio Grande, and downtown. (Travelers can rent bicycles from more than 41 locations via Pace, Albuquerque's new bike-share service.) In the expanding Sawmill District—once the center of the city's lumber industry—the 8,600-square-foot Spur Line Supply Co. is a symbol of the area's

revival. Founded in an Airstream trailer, Spur now offers space for several New Mexican artisans, as well as rotating art exhibits, coffee, and classes from YogaZo, the city's first mobile yoga studio. Elsewhere, long-dormant hotels dating back to the 1930s are getting a second life, including the remodeled 22-room El Vado Motel near Old Town, which was built in 1937 to cater to Route 66 travelers. In the Nob Hill neighborhood, the 80-year-old De Anza Lodge is set to reopen by early March after an \$8.2 million renovation, which includes the restoration of Zuni Shalako murals.

**HOW TO GET THERE** Alaska Airlines, Delta, and Frontier Airlines have recently added nonstop flights to Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) from Los Angeles, Portland, Denver, and Austin.

WHERE TO GO IN 2019



FROM LEFT: WALID RASHID, EMILY JOANNE