

# THE WORLD'S 100 GREATEST PLACES of 2021



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**ACCRA, GHANA***A hub for creativity and culture*

Accessing the Ghanaian capital has become even easier this year, with last fall's debut of Qatar Airways flights from Doha and new thrice-weekly United Airlines service from Washington, D.C. And there are plenty of openings to help fill an itinerary: **ADA**, a contemporary gallery that launched late last year, showcases the work of emerging creatives—such as paintings by Nigerian artist Eniwaye Oluwaseyi and South African artist Zandile Tshabalala—from across Africa. A new architecture school, the **African Futures Institute (AFI)** debuts at the end of July, with a focus on cultivating regional talent. The AFI is the brainchild of Lesley Lokko, the founder and director of the Graduate School of Architecture in Johannesburg, in collaboration with award-winning Ghanaian architect David Adjaye. And next year, the **Pan African Heritage World Museum** is scheduled to open. It will house archives, exhibits, galleries and a theater, with the aim of being a key destination for visitors interested in connecting with Africa's history and its people's heritage.

—Rosalind Cummings-Yeates

**HANOI***Renewed life in the Old Quarter*

Vietnam's 1,000-year-old capital is embracing change while maintaining a strong sense of identity. This balancing act is exemplified by the new **Capella Hanoi**, a 47-room hotel where architect Bill Bensley pays homage to the opera of the Roaring '20s, while the city's more flamboyant side is showcased in another major hotel opening: **Dolce by Wyndham Hanoi Golden Lake**, a glimmering building billed as the world's first gold-plated hotel. Hanoi's incredible street-food culture is another source of fierce civic pride. Lovers of pho, the city's signature dish, were gratified when **Pho Gia Truyen**—one of Hanoi's most legendary vendors—was recognized in Asia's 50 Best Restaurants "Essence of Asia" list in 2020, a collection of storied venues that represent the spirit of gastronomy in the region.

—Duncan Forgan

**Design District,  
London***An affordable artistic incubator*

On the south side of the River Thames lies the Royal Borough of Greenwich, a buzzy neighborhood known for its maritime history and for being the home of the prime meridian, from which the world's time zones are measured. It's also home to the brand-new Design District, a car-free area comprising 16 buildings intended to provide an affordable home for creatives. For the first 12 months of its operation, creators can rent a desk, a floor or an entire building for just £5 (\$7) per sq. ft. The area is gearing up after 16 months of lockdowns and restrictions in the U.K. to welcome visitors once more with the plan to host the **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**, which will showcase climate-related art installations—including artist Dan Acher's **We Are Watching**, a 10-story-high flag featuring an image of a giant eye—ahead of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November. In early 2022, the charity Queercircle will open the **U.K.'s only permanent art space dedicated to LGBTQ+ artists**, in the Design District.

—Sujin Haynes

**HUDSON  
VALLEY,  
NEW YORK***Brick by brick*

The Hudson Valley, known for its country charm and succulent agriculture, is fast becoming one of the most popular locales in New York—thanks in part to an influx of city dwellers relocating during the pandemic, as well as the opening of **Legoland** in Goshen. Travelers will also have their choice of new hotels: **Hutton Brickyards** in Kingston, with luxury cabins close to the Hudson River, and **The Maker**, a hotel, restaurant, lounge and café in Hudson that celebrates all things artisanal. Farther south, the revitalized **Blue Hill at Stone Barns** has a new chefs-in-residence program, bringing in more talents to shake up its famed kitchen.

—Diandra Barnwell

**Oslo**  
*Munch to do*

This fall will see the opening of **Munch** (right), a waterfront museum in Oslo dedicated to the art and life of Edvard Munch, the famed Expressionist painter of *The Scream*. Despite the shutdowns, an eclectic roster of new restaurants and bars are also opening in Oslo, including **ZZ Pizza**, which serves pies inside an old car wash, and **La Mayor**, which will offer contemporary Mexican dishes with a focus on seafood. On Holmenkollen hill, above the city, **Rose Castle** is a new permanent art installation featuring paintings and sculptures that commemorate the invasion of Norway during World War II. And by 2022, some 27 miles north of Oslo, award-winning design firm **Snohetta's Solobservatoriet** will open as the largest solar observatory north of the Alps with a planetarium, northern-lights exhibit and more. —Terry Ward



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