



COLLECTION

# THE TOP TEN CITIES TO VISIT IN 2016

By short hop or long haul, these are ten cities to touch down in this year.

The checklist for a perfect city break includes a great hotel, freshly laundered; a menu of new eating spots; and a few vibrant, on-the-up neighbourhoods to explore. Here are ten cities to tick your boxes

## 1 Amsterdam

Slowly but surely, Amsterdam has shaken its somewhat seedy reputation and its cultural credentials now shine more brightly – thanks in part to the decade-long, £283 million revamp of the city's Rijksmuseum, which re-opened its doors in 2013. A wave of new hotels, including the upmarket Waldorf Astoria, are also providing a more sophisticated pull. You can enjoy Venetian cuisine from chef Bastiaan Doesburg at the recently opened San George, before indulging in champagne-fuelled high tea at The Duchess in the glitzy W Hotel or hang out with hip locals at Hoxton Amsterdam, the British group's first foreign property following its two successful openings in London.

Stay: [Hoxton Amsterdam](#) | [W Amsterdam](#)

Eat: [The Duchess](#) | [San George](#)



Venetian cuisine comes to Amsterdam at the San George. Credit: [sangeorge.nl](#)

## 2 Barcelona

Not exactly uncharted territory but Barcelona's wow factor is wowier than ever, even for those familiar with the Gaudi-embellished cityscape. The Catalan capital has positioned itself as Spain's cosmopolitan hub, benefitting from the best of both worlds: casual al fresco dining on the beachfront as well as innovative fare from the likes of chefs Albert and Ferran Adrià. For fancy tapas, head to Malamén, Venezuelan-transplant Humberto Cruz's bar in the emerging Poble-sec neighbourhood. Or for a more traditional setting just down the road, the floor-to-ceiling display of dusty bottles of wine in Quimet i Quimet creates an air of authenticity in which to enjoy a plate of jamón ibérico with a chilled glass of cava. Romantic rooftop views are best seen from either the chic Grand Hotel Central or the plush Mandarin Oriental. For a sea view, the recently opened Serras Hotel looks out onto the swish new Marina Port Vell while a new Soho House outpost opens nearby this summer.

Stay: [The Serras](#) | [Grand Hotel Central](#) | [Mandarin Oriental](#)

Eat: [Malamén](#) | [Tapas 24](#) | [Quimet i Quimet](#)



Barcelona's new Las Serras hotel looks over superyachts of the revamped Marina Port Vell. Credit: [The Serras](#)



Despite the unfortunate name, B.O.G is Bogotá's most glamorous hotel. Credit: [Design Hotels™](#)

## 3 Bogotá

Often bypassed for the more romantic offerings of Cartagena, the northern port city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Bogotá now has a growing reputation as a hub for sophisticated urban cool. While you are there, sample the traditional cheese dipped in hot chocolate at Lachoco Latera, a café in the bohemian neighbourhood of La Macarena (just a short stroll from the cobbled streets and carefully preserved colonial buildings of La Candelaria), or for more upscale offerings head to the northern districts of Zona Rosa and Zona G, where large shopping malls and restaurants such as the Isay Weinfeld-designed Juana La Loca and chic bakery Masa sit alongside fashionable hotels from B.O.G to the glossy W Bogota.

Stay: [B.O.G Hotel](#) | [W Bogotá](#)

Eat: [Juana La Loca](#) | [Masa](#)



The multi-purpose Casa Cavia in Buenos Aires. Credit: [Casa Cavia](#)

## 4 Buenos Aires

Of course, the traditional tango and steak will always feature on the list of must-do experiences when visiting the Argentine capital, but BA is a city with a restless streak and a constantly shifting geography of hip neighbourhoods and new restaurants and bars. Start off your evening with an aperitivo at La Biela before tucking into a plate of succulent Kobe beef at Casa Cavia – a stylish restaurant, publishing house, bookshop, florist and perfumery all-in-one in the leafy Palermo Chico neighbourhood – followed by a nightcap at the lavish Faena Hotel.

Stay: [Faena Hotel Buenos Aires](#)

Eat: [La Biela](#) | [Casa Cavia](#) | [Oporto Almacen](#)



The Chicago Athletic Association building is now one of the city's best hotels with interiors by star New York designers Roman & Williams. Credit: [Alan Shortall](#)

## 5 Chicago

Big, bold architecture is what defines Chicago, with luxury hotels popping up in iconic buildings, such as the newly minted Chicago Athletic Association in the landmark Henry Ives Cobb-designed building. What also defines the city is its steakhouses, and the institution is being reinvented with spruced-up versions, from the swanky Maple & Ash to the bold AvroKO-designed Swift & Sons in the city's emerging West Loop neighbourhood.

Stay: [Chicago Athletic Association](#)

Eat: [Swift & Sons](#) | [Maple & Ash](#) | [Monteverde](#)

## 6 Hong Kong

With restaurants opening – and closing – nearly every day, Hong Kong is a culinary hotbed attracting international chefs from far and wide to set up shop. The newest arrival is British chef, Tom Aikens, whose Fat Pig eatery freestyles between the East and West with a string of porcine dishes such as pork rillettes with sour apple chutney and chopped pig's trotters on sourdough. For the more traditional option, Michelin-starred chef Siu Hin-chi turns out perfectly proportioned Cantonese dishes at the restaurant-cum-gallery Duddell's. Where to bed down however, is non-negotiable: the city's iconic Landmark Mandarin Oriental has just received a new set of suites, designed by Joyce Wang.

Stay: The new suites at the [Landmark Mandarin Oriental](#)

Eat: [Duddell's](#) | [The Fat Pig](#)



Tom Aikens' new Fat Pig. Aikens is the latest in a wave of British chefs to open restaurants in Hong Kong.



Views over the Bosphorus at the Mikla restaurant in Istanbul. Credit: [Mikla Restaurant](#)

## 7 Istanbul

Over the last five years or so, Istanbul has established itself as one of Europe's key creative centres as well as a vibrant, cultural melting pot with a string of luxury hotels and top-notch restaurants to prove it. And if there's one thing that's true about this energetic city, you will always eat well – whether it's fresh seafood at Arşipel or modern takes on traditional cuisine by acclaimed chef Kemal Demiral at Alancha. As far as entertainment and sleeping are concerned, both can be done at the city's ultra-new hotspot, Soho House, the London club's largest outpost to date.

Stay: [Soho House Istanbul](#)

Eat: [Alancha](#) | [Arşipel](#) | [Mikla](#)



The Flames restaurant at the Four Seasons in Johannesburg.

## 8 Johannesburg

It's fair to say that Johannesburg has a fearsome reputation. But with a new generation of locals working hard to rejuvenate derelict areas such as the Maboneng Precinct with hot art galleries and hip restaurants, the city is fast eclipsing Cape Town as a spot to take a break from safari and scenery in South Africa. Slumber in luxury at The Saxon, Johannesburg's most lavish hotel and spa in the affluent Sandhurst neighbourhood, take in the city's famed green canopy from the terrace of Flames restaurant at The Four Seasons or get down with the locals at Pata Pata, a venue inspired by Johannesburg's 1950s' diners and township jazz haunts.

Stay: [The Saxon](#)

Eat: [Flames](#) | [Pata Pata](#) | [Cube](#)

## 9 Miami

The launch of Art Basel Miami over a decade ago spurred Miami's reinvention as a Floridian cultural hub. For most visitors, however, Miami still means South Beach's remarkable string of hotels. The new – and suitably extraordinary – kid on the block is another Faena outpost, housed in the former Saxony Hotel, one of the first resorts to grace Collins Avenue. If you can't stay in all the hotels, then you can at least dine in some of them: The Driftwood Room, in the city's newly restored Nautilus South Beach, is classic Miami with a beachy, upscale Mediterranean menu that features a range of fresh fish and classics such as snapper en papillote. Of course, Miami isn't just about the beach. Further inland, though sticking to the Mediterranean theme, Klima serves modern tapas along with a range of meats and salads and a raw bar.

Stay: [Faena Hotel Miami Beach](#)

Eat: [Klima](#) | [The Driftwood Room](#)



One of the oldest hotels on the block, South Beach's Saxony has been refitted and rebranded by Argentinean hotelier Alan Faena. Argentinean hotelier Alan Faena

## 10 Taipei

In this vibrant, energetic city, the thing to do – apart from shop – is eat. With little space to cook in Taiwanese homes, buzzing street-food markets are everywhere. A melting pot of cuisines influenced by the central and southern provinces of China as well as Japan, the food is aromatic and tasty. Snack on pig's blood rice cake before jostling through the crowds to indulge in a bowl of 'stinky tofu'. For a more refined experience, check out Raw, where chef Andre Chiang is elegantly elevated traditional fare, or nab a seat at Din Tai Fung for some world-class dumplings. Head back to Humble House hotel for a quick lie down before nipping out for round number two.

Stay: [Humble House](#)

Eat: [RAW](#) | [Din Tai Fung](#)



Humble House Taipei offers a sixth-floor garden with views across the city. And if that wasn't enough eye candy, there are 600 works scattered around the hotel. Credit: [Design Hotels™](#)