

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



The Louvre, home to Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," was the most Instagrammed museum in 2017.

AP/FILE 2016

## THE MOST INSTAGRAMMED OF 2017

BY MEGAN McDONOUGH | THE WASHINGTON POST

**W**hat is the point of traveling the world if you can't share it — or boast about it — with deskbound friends back home?

Instagram, the popular photo-sharing platform, has become a fan favorite among travelers, who often post wanderlust-inducing photos from their worldly adventures to remind loved ones they're on vacation — and very #happy about it.

The app recently released its year-in-review data, which included, among other stats, the most photographed cities, locations, and museums, based on geotagged data, of 2017. Instagram's data team also highlighted the top hashtags and filters used by its global community of 800 million users this past year.

The Big Apple and the House of Mouse took the top slots for most photographed city and location, respectfully, while Paris's Louvre Museum was the most Instagrammed museum worldwide (no doubt thanks to tourists' countless selfies with the "Mona Lisa").

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York took first place among US museums, while Washington's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden cracked the top 10 — at No. 8 — for the first time, probably because of Yayoi Kusama's wildly popular and photo-friendly mirrored infinity rooms. Nearly 160,000 people experienced the museum's record-breaking Kusama exhibition and posted around 34,000 snapshots from it on their Instagram accounts, according to the museum.

Here are a few of the site's top lists:

### Most Instagrammed cities of 2017

1. New York
2. Moscow
3. London
4. Sao Paulo
5. Paris
6. Los Angeles
7. St. Petersburg
8. Jakarta, Indonesia
9. Istanbul
10. Barcelona

### Most Instagrammed locations of 2017

1. Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif.
2. Times Square, New York
3. Central Park, New York
4. Eiffel Tower, Paris
5. Tokyo Disneyland
6. Disney's Magic Kingdom, Orlando
7. Louvre Museum, Paris
8. Brooklyn Bridge, New York
9. Disney California Adventure Park, Anaheim, Calif.
10. Las Vegas Strip

### Most Instagrammed museums (global) of 2017

1. Louvre Museum, Paris
2. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
3. The Museum of Modern Art, New York
4. Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5. British Museum, London
6. American Museum of Natural History, New York
7. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
8. Victoria and Albert Museum, London
9. Natural History Museum, London
10. Museum of Ice Cream, Los Angeles

### Most Instagrammed museums (US) of 2017

1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
2. The Museum of Modern Art, New York
3. Los Angeles County Museum of Art
4. American Museum of Natural History, New York

### 5. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

6. Museum of Ice Cream, Los Angeles
7. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
8. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
9. National September 11 Memorial & Museum, New York
10. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

### Top hashtags of 2017

1. #Love
2. #Fashion
3. #PhotoOfTheDay
4. #Photography
5. #Art
6. #Beautiful
7. #Travel
8. #Happy
9. #Nature
10. #PicOfTheDay

## HERE

### THE CAT COMES TO SUGARLOAF

Ski aficionados will be thrilled to know that Sugarloaf Mountain Resort will debut Maine's first cat-skiing operation on Burnt Mountain this winter. No, this doesn't involve skiing with your favorite feline in tow. Cat-skiing allows adventurous skiers and snowboarders to access deep powder and steep terrain by being transported up the mountain in a snow cat, a grooming machine with a cabin on the back with seating for up to 12 passengers. At Burnt Mountain, previously only accessible by hiking or skiing in, two snow cats will operate in tandem to climb more than 1,400 vertical feet before dropping skiers into 100-plus acres of powder in the resort's signature side country. Shuttles depart every 20 minutes. Recommended for expert skiers only. Single cat rides range from \$20 to \$30, plus the price of a lift ticket. 800-843-5623, sugarloaf.com/the-mountain/burnt-mountain-cat-skiing-x2827

### VINTAGE DEPARTMENT STORE DEBUTS AS HOTEL

Those heading to the historic town of Salem this winter — perhaps to the Peabody Essex Museum or the town's witch-related homes and museums — now have a new and comfy place to stay. The Hotel Salem, the newest property from boutique Lark Hotels collection, is a 44-room hotel located in the former Newmark's Department Store building on the city's Essex Street pedestrian mall. Boasting a combination of midcentury furnish-

ings and funky details from the 1950s and 1960s, the vintage-themed hotel offers affordable micro king rooms, lofted suites, compact king deluxe accommodations with trundle beds, and the 500-square foot signature Lark Suite. Scheduled to open soon: Counter, a full-service restaurant, and The Roof, a seasonal rooftop bar and restaurant with views of the cityscape and nearby harbor. Rates from \$159 based on room type, season, and availability. 978-451-4950, www.thehotel.salem.com

## THERE

### CUSTOMIZED CAVE EXPLORATION

Push your limits, face your fears, or express yourself creatively in Solitude, a new experience offered by Canmore Cave Tours in the mountains of Alberta, Canada. Solitude is an intense experience designed for a personal un-

derground exploration of Rat's Nest Cave in Grotto Mountain. The customized experience is for you, your close friends, and guide who will have private use of the entire cave to do anything you want, including photography, recording music, making a Go Pro action movie, or simply enjoying the quiet space. Canmore Cave Tours provides all of the necessary caving equipment including coveralls, kneepads, gloves, helmet and headlamp, harness and safety lanyard, and backpack. The six-hour tour includes four hours underground. Two covers \$499; each additional caver \$129. 877-317-1178, www.canmorecavetours.com/experiences/solitude

### COOK, CYCLE WITH CHEFS IN SICILY

Those who love cycling and also love cooking may want to check out the new Sicily Chef Bike Tour by Tourissimo (May 5-12). Cohosted by two celebrity chefs from California, Chef Traci



Des Jardins and Chef Mary Sue Milliken, the tour aims to connect the geography and products of the area (artichokes! figs! almonds! olive oil!) to its rich gastronomic traditions. The all-inclusive program includes bikes, two guides, accommodations, all meals, wine, beer, and cappuccino, support vehicle to carry luggage, and more. Highlights include experiences such as market-to-table cooking with local chef, learning and cooking Sicilian recipes, visit and tasting at Planeta Winery, and tours of historic architecture. Price per person in double room: \$4,595. 857-997-0051, www.tourissimo.travel/sicily-chef-bike-tour-2018

## EVERYWHERE

### LUGGAGE STORAGE WEBSITE DEBUTS

Tired of hauling suitcases and backpacks around a city before check-in or after checkout? LuggageHero might be your perfect solution. Launching in New York City this month (and already available in London and Co-

penhagen), the website allows you to store your bags by the hour in more than 140 certified shops, cafes and hotels located in all boroughs, including the neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Park Slope, Flushing, Astoria, NoLita, Flushing, Midtown, SoHo, and many more. Simply locate a convenient storage site online, reserve your spot, show up, and check in your luggage. Each bag will be secured with a tamper-proof seal, and its contents insured for up to \$2,000. Introductory rate (through Jan. 1): \$1 per hour with a maximum of \$7 per day per piece of luggage. Can be stored for multiple days. No fees are charged until bags are dropped off. luggagehero.com

### GLOVES MADE FOR SPEED

Motorcycle enthusiasts can stay warm and look stylish with Velomacchi Speedway Gloves, part of a new line of adventure products inspired by tradition and the best carry-technology for those who pursue speed. Featuring soft deerskin palms for dexterity and goatskin backs for abrasion protection, the glove was inspired by classic flat track and road racing gloves that were hand-built from the 1960s and 1970s, gloves once worn by legends such as Kenny Roberts, Eddie Lawson and Ray Carroll. Other features include conductive finger and thumb for touch-screen navigation, high-impact TPU dorsal guards for finger protection and goggle wipe, reinforced brass rivets on hypothenar impact zone, and Velcro closure at wrist. Available in solid black, and tan/black. \$159. www.velomacchi.com/products/speedway-gloves

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