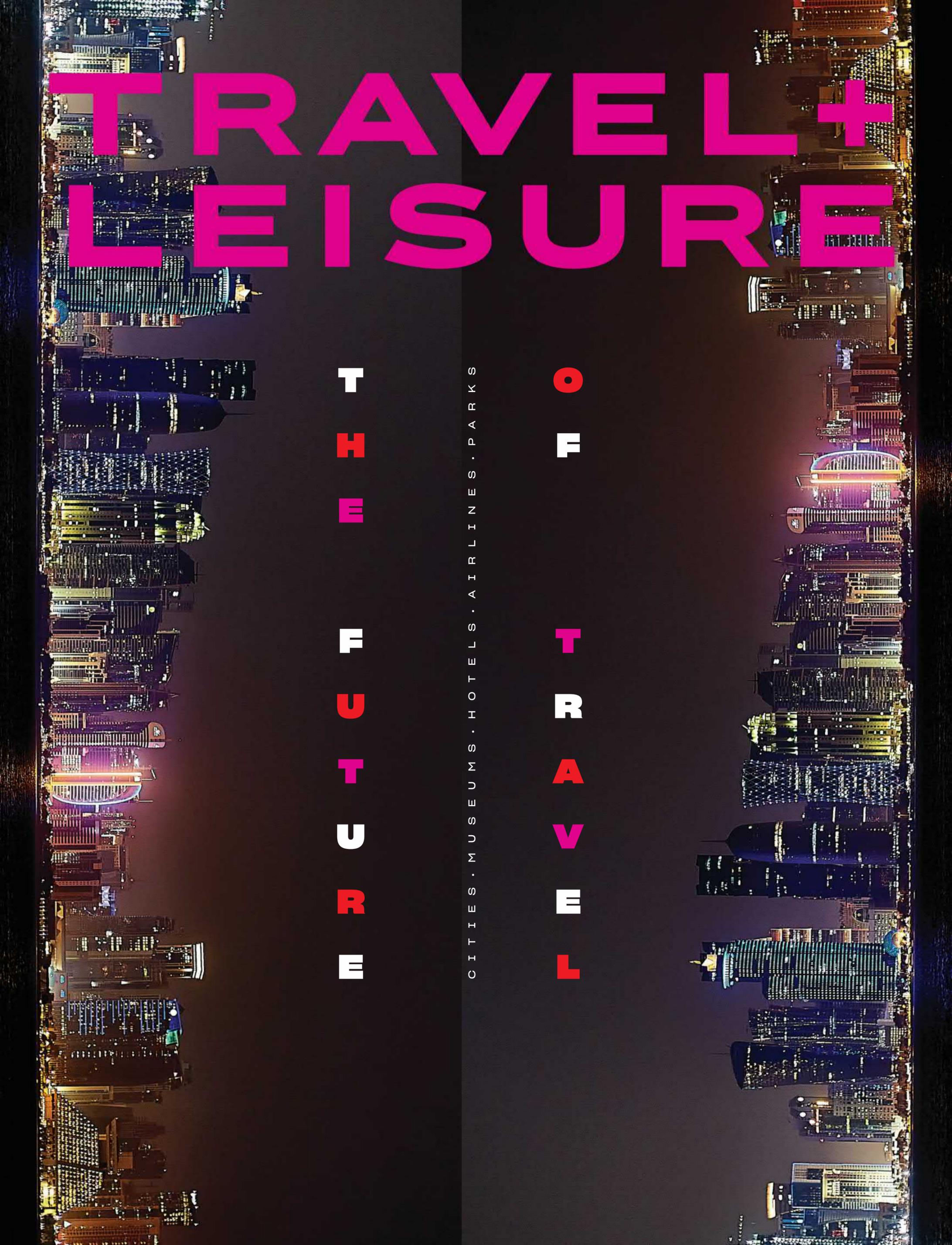


# TRAVEL + LEISURE

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◀ From left: Aman's Mountain Roads of Italy itinerary winds through the rugged Dolomites; a Jeep Wrangler from Quasar Expeditions at Paine Grande, in Chilean Patagonia.

## Road Trips Are Going Luxe

High-end itineraries let you explore the world on wheels, no kitschy motor lodges involved.

BY KAREN CATCHPOLE

THE SEARCH FOR SAFE travel during the pandemic sparked a sustained wave of interest in traveling by car. Some people can't wait to plot routes, research sights, and tune up their car-maintenance skills. But if getting under the hood isn't your idea of fun, don't worry. Luxury travel companies are offering their own twists on the classic driving vacation—handling all those pesky practical details so you can enjoy a hassle-free journey through some of the most beautiful places on the planet.

**Aman Driving Journeys** ([aman.com](http://aman.com); from \$9,760 for four nights) are based out of Aman hotels in destinations including southern Europe, Morocco, the western U.S., and Japan, where a stop at Amanemu, on Ago Bay, includes track time at the Suzuka Circuit Grand Prix course. You can have your own

car shipped in or choose from a stable of vehicles—including BMWs, Ferraris, and off-road-ready SUVs—then set off with a personalized itinerary preloaded on an iPhone. Break up the drive with recommended photo stops, gourmet picnics prearranged by hotel staff, or reservations at local-favorite roadside restaurants. And no need to worry about breakdowns: a support vehicle is never far away.

The Patagonia Revealed Safari from **Quasar Expeditions** ([quasarex.com](http://quasarex.com); from \$6,750 for eight nights) sets you up in a new Jeep Wrangler—complete with stocked cooler, binoculars, and iPad loaded with your itinerary—to explore this mountainous region of Chile and Argentina. (You can also let a guide take the wheel.) The route includes



the massive Perito Moreno glacier and a rarely visited part of the Sierra Baguales, where you can see fossils on a guided hike, followed by a cave picnic of Patagonian meats, cheeses, and wines. Rest at some of the area's best hotels, including Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, on the edge of Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, and Eolo Lodge, in El Calafate, Argentina.

South American travel company **Explora** ([explora.com](http://explora.com); \$1,200 per person per day, all-inclusive) has relaunched its Travesía (Spanish for “nomadic journey”) between Chile's Atacama Desert and the 4,000-square-mile Uyuni Salt Flat in Bolivia. Two guests travel in a dedicated 4 x 4 Land Cruiser with a local driver—this route is unsigned, unpaved, and sometimes technical—plus an Explora guide with Wilderness First Responder certification. (Also included is a supply of supplemental oxygen; elevations range from 7,000 to 13,000 feet.) During the day, your job is to go hiking and biking, spot flamingos, and admire volcanoes, geyser fields, and multicolored lakes. At night, enjoy regional cuisine cooked by personal chefs and head out for astronomy expeditions to take in the skies, which are almost entirely free of light pollution. You'll stay in sustainably built Explora Mountain Homes along the way, plus the new Explora Uyuni Lodge at the edge of the salt flat.

ILLUSTRATION BY CARIBAY MARQUINA

## Adaptive Reuse Is the New Normal

From Asheville to Athens, neglected buildings are getting second lives as dynamic centers of culture. **BY TOM AUSTIN**

### TUNES IN A TOURIST COURT

In 1947, Fred “Rabbit” Simpson opened Rabbit's Motel & Café in Southside, a historically Black neighborhood in Asheville, North Carolina. It quickly became a refuge for Black travelers—including chitlin-circuit entertainers like Richard Pryor and Jackie Wilson. Now, after an 18-year closure, Rabbit's is back for an encore. This year, Asheville musicians Claude Coleman Jr. and Brett Spivey founded **SoundSpace@Rabbit's**, a community music venue that, when complete, will offer rehearsal studios, outdoor concerts, and a soul-food restaurant. According to Coleman, the new incarnation of Rabbit's “reconnects the city with the lost history of Asheville.” [soundspaceavl.com](http://soundspaceavl.com).

### A WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM IN A POWER PLANT

Helsinki's **Suvilahti** district is already brimming with galleries, vibrant street art, and artists' studios. With the news that the coal-fired Hanasaari power plant will be decommissioned by 2024 and turned into an as-yet-unnamed museum, the Finnish capital

may soon have its very own equivalent of the Tate Modern. (The London museum is set in the former Bankside Power Station.) In an even bigger move, the Helsinki Art Museum—currently housed in the Tennispalatsi building, which was originally constructed for the 1940 Summer Olympics—is considering a city proposal to relocate to Suvilahti. If the move goes through, it will cement this once-industrial area's place as Helsinki's new cultural heart. [suvilahti.fi](http://suvilahti.fi).

### CONTEMPORARY ART IN A TOBACCO FACTORY

This year marks 200 years since Greece broke free from the Ottoman Empire. To celebrate the occasion, the Hellenic Parliament and the arts organization NEON have joined forces to turn Athens's **Lenorman Street Tobacco Factory** (built by the government in 1930) into a contemporary art center. The inaugural exhibition, “Portals,” features works by 40 international artists, including American painter Glenn Ligon and visual artist Maria Loizidou, of Cyprus. [neon.org.gr](http://neon.org.gr).

