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SHORT BREAKS, BIG ADVENTURES

Look further afield than Paris and NYC for a mini break next year

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The Grand
Egyptian
Museum
is a must-
visit

CAIRO

For Egyptian adventure

The opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM, [@grandegyptianmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/grandegyptianmuseum)) has put this crazily chaotic but evocative city back at the top of everyone's bucket list. GEM is enormous – it includes all 5,500 items from King Tutankhamen's tomb – and is within sight of the other must-sees: the Pyramids of Giza and Sphinx (arrive very early and fuel up later at [@9pyramidslounge](https://www.instagram.com/9pyramidslounge) or [@khufus.bistro](https://www.instagram.com/khufus_bistro)). Do visit the beautiful 9th-century Ibn Tulun Mosque, too. Nearby is the [@gayer_anderson_museum](https://www.instagram.com/gayer_anderson_museum), a treasure trove of furniture, tiles, antiques and textiles. Spend a few hours in the winding alleyways of Khan El Khalili market – bag yourself some Egyptian cotton as well as beautiful glass and alabaster pieces, and lunch at the iconic Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant. Take a sunset sail on the Nile in a felucca – find one at Zamalek, one of Cairo's hip neighbourhoods with great boutique

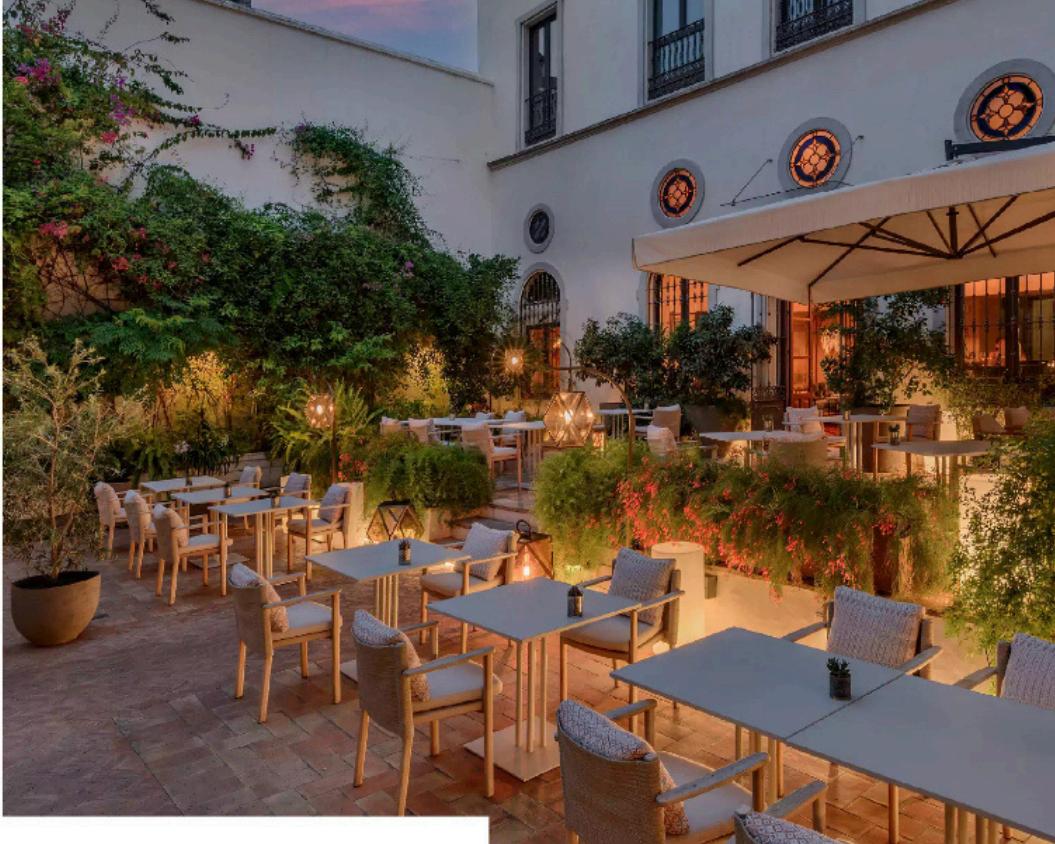
FLORENCE

For art lovers

Car-free streets, plus a huge amount of regeneration have made the capital of Tuscany a revitalised gem. The big draw is the @uffizigalleries with its unbeatable collection of Renaissance art, but there is more to see. Visit @museodesanmarco, an off-the-beaten-track convent with beautifully preserved frescoes. At @palazzostrozzi, modern art is showcased in one of the city's oldest buildings. Fashion meets art at Gucci Garden at Palazzo della Mercanzia, with a boutique selling exclusive Gucci Garden designs and, upstairs, a gallery space telling the fashion house's story alongside contemporary exhibitions. Cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio, home to jewellery shops since the 14th century (for serious shopping drop into fratelli_piccini_jewellers), and into Oltrarno, a quieter area with the Boboli Gardens, along with cafés, cool boutiques and workshops. Start your evening at 701 Rooftop Bar at Ferragamo's @lungarnocollection hotel. Dine on Tuscan fare with a twist at @osteriadellenoteca, or enjoy a Michelin-star experience at @gucciosteria. For sensational sweet treats, head to Stanley Tucci's favourite bakery @leonardofirenze_. Stay @thehoxtonhotel, spread across a palazzo and 1980s building, connected by a convivial courtyard (rooms from £160pn).



Take in the majestic dome of the Duomo



SEVILLE

For Flamenco nights

Seville delivers year-round sunshine, along with a smorgasbord of tapas, glasses of sweet orange wine and flamenco, the dance created here. Plaza de Espana, in the lovely Maria Luisa Park, is a stunning space of Iberian and Moorish-style architecture. Also splendid is Real Alcazar, a series of palaces, each linked by large courtyards and gardens (book tickets). Step back into the modern world at Las Setas, where 26m-high wooden mushroom-shaped parasols create a curving walkway for 360-degree views of the city, including the famous Catedral de Sevilla. Pick up a bike for free at Sevici (sevici.es) and pedal through the parks and along the riverfront. See works by Velazquez and Goya at Museo de Bellas Artes or, for contemporary art, drop into



Above: dine in the cathedral's Patio de los Naranjos and explore the Alcazar palaces (left). Naked & Famous is the place for cocktails (below left)



@espacioderivado. The Santa Cruz neighbourhood, with its pretty squares, delivers historic charm, while across the river Triana is bohemian with numerous ceramic workshops. For mad mixology it has to be @nakedandfamous_; for sundowners head to @puravidaterraza while @carboneriadesevilla is popular with locals for its flamenco. You can also book a show at @teatroflamencotriana, a small theatre dedicated to the dance. Fabulous shopping can be had at @elpatiodelaloza. Meanwhile, for tapas, @casamoralessevilla is an institution, or for a modern take book @elpinton. Beyond tapas, dine at @tradevosevilla and @canabota. Stay at @coolrooms palaciovillapanes, a Baroque palace that still feels modern (rooms from £220pn).