



San Sebastián, Spain

Julie Falconer from aladyinlondon.com

“San Sebastián is foodie heaven. It has more Michelin stars per capita than any other city in the world and the pintxo bars – offering local wines and tapas – are just as good as the haute cuisine places. It’s also a great place for surfers, as there are world-class breaks and beautiful beaches in and around the city. The best time to go is in the northern hemisphere summer. The weather is warm and there are lots of events, such as the San Sebastián Jazz Festival and the International Theatre Festival in July. The locals are friendly and are always willing to help visitors find the best places to go.”

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best place to:

Dine: Arzak. It has three Michelin stars! **Drink:** The pintxo bars in the Old Part (Parte Vieja). **Dance:** Bataplan Disco is a great place to kick up your heels, and it overlooks the beach. **Swim:** Playa de la Concha is by far the best beach in San Sebastián. **Sleep:** Hotel Maria Cristina is a grand old hotel with beautiful guest rooms and excellent service. **Relax:** The beach. Try Ondarreta or La Zurriola. **Get a culture fix:** The Museo Etnográfico de Zerain is an open-air museum that chronicles the history of village life. **Admire the view:** Hike up to the Castillo de Santa Cruz de la Mota. It offers the most amazing city landscape.



Singapore City, Singapore

Mary Tan from maryaroundtheworld.blogspot.com

“Singapore has some of the world’s best restaurants, malls, clubs and bars, but there are plenty of hole-in-the-wall joints where backpackers and underground revellers can go for a night out. And there’s nothing quite like Singaporean food! There are also many events, such as the Singapore F1 Grand Prix, World Gourmet Summit and Night Festival, that bring the city to life. Holidays like Chinese New Year in February and Hari Raya Puasa are also excellent ways to experience and understand the different cultures that bind the country together.”

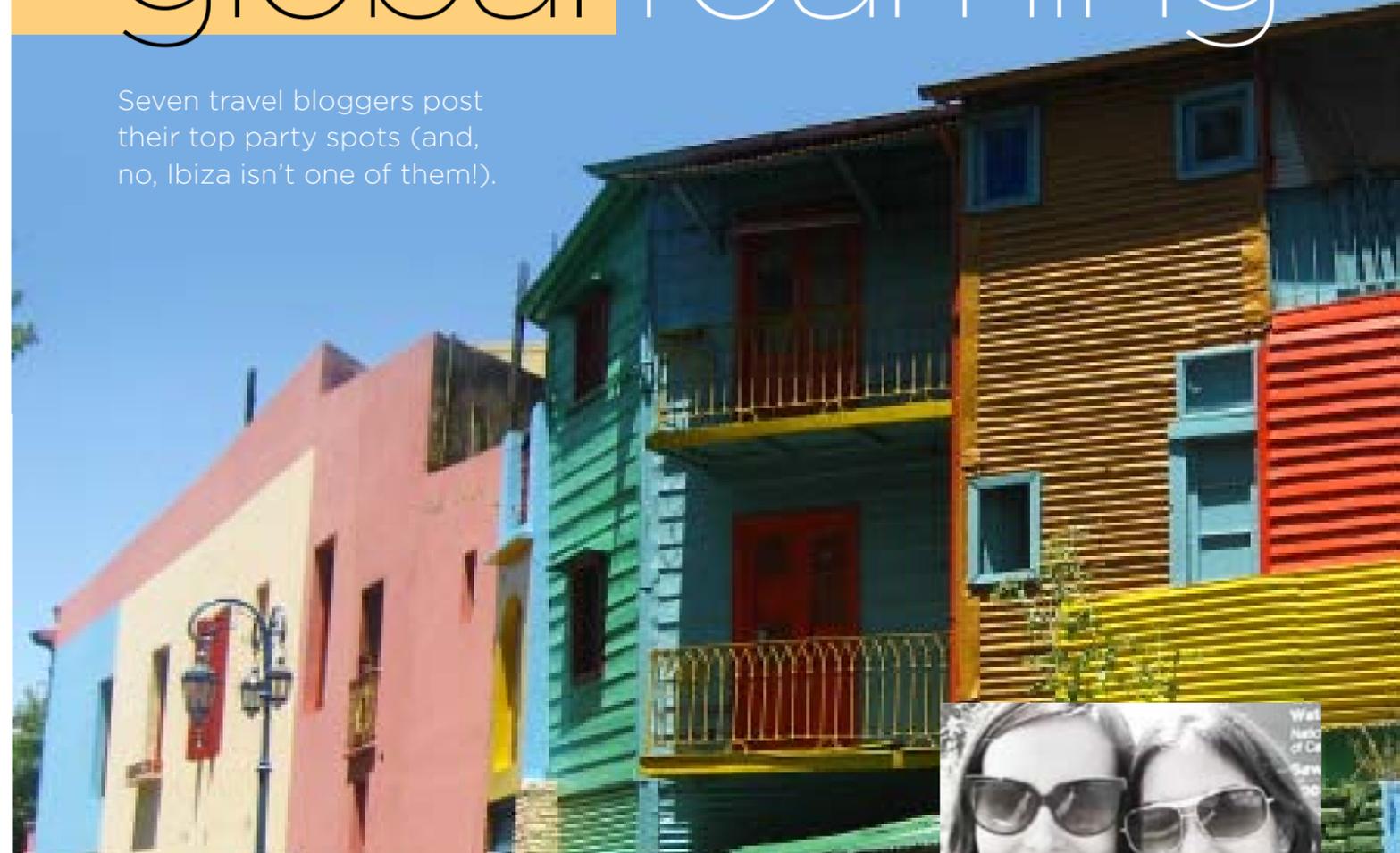
best place to:

Dine: The Blue Ginger Restaurant for authentic Peranakan cuisine. **Drink:** With the indie-loving locals at BluJaz Cafe. **Dance:** Attica at Clarke Quay. **Swim:** The rooftop infinity pool at Marina Bay Sands. **Sleep:** The Hotel Re! is affordable and fun. **Shop:** Orchard Road (for high-end designer) and Haji Lane (for one-of-a-kind items). **Relax:** Aramsá – The Garden Spa. **People-watch:** La Maison. The recently refurbished country house turns into Singapore’s hottest dance club on weekends. **Get a culture fix:** At a Muslim mosque or Buddhist or Hindu temple, but dress appropriately. **Avoid the tourists:** Hike through Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.



global roaming

Seven travel bloggers post their top party spots (and, no, Ibiza isn’t one of them!).



Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tanya Callocchia and Nara Devere-Bennett from offtrackbackpacking.com

“In Buenos Aires, you feel like you’re in five different cultures at once. It’s typical Latin America, but with a European feel. Porteños (people from Buenos Aires) like to party. Nights begin with a few drinks at a lounge at midnight and end with dancing at a club until 7am! The best time to visit is in spring or autumn, but if you’re there in the summer, head straight to the beach. And don’t forget the main attractions – the Obelisk of Buenos Aires, La Recoleta Cemetery, the flamboyant Casa Rosada government building, the vibrant La Boca neighbourhood and the shopping mecca of Palermo. Of course, you must

take in a tango show; if you don’t want to pay for it, check out one of the street shows on Calle Florida.”

best place to:

Dine: La Parolaccia. **Drink:** Gran Bar Danzon, Casa Cruz or Downtown Matias. **Dance:** La Viruta for tango, The Roxy for rock or Pacha for techno. **Sleep:** Try the luxe Faena Hotel+Universe. **Shop:** Calle Florida is *the* shopping street! **Relax:** San Isidro square or the quiet nearby town of El Tigre. **People-watch:** The suburbs of La Recoleta, Palermo or in any rugby club. **Admire the view:** Puerto Madero waterfront. ➔





Seoul, South Korea

Cate Dowman from caffeinatedtraveller.com

"Seoul is brimming with expats and Asian tourists, but remains untapped among Westerners. It's a city undergoing rapid transition as Seoulites explore new ideas in food and fashion. Spring and autumn are good times to go for temperature and colour. In autumn, the streets get flooded with gold from the ginkgo trees. The locals are passionate, hot-tempered people. Though they may come off as impatient, you mustn't take it personally. Koreans are warm-hearted, well-travelled and incredibly wise people. If you want something different, you'll enjoy Seoul."

best place to:

Dine: Try Apgujeong (high-end restaurants), Gangnam (western-style bars), Itaewon (expats), and Samcheong and Insadong (traditional-style eateries).

Drink: The hole-in-the-wall bars around Sinchon and Hongdae. **Dance:** Check out 4X and Miro in Gangnam. **Sleep:** Budget-oriented guesthouses, such as Mr Kim's Friends, Namsan or Yim's. **Shop:** Try Namdaemun and Dongdaemun markets for cheap goods, Insadong for crafts and tea houses, and Gangnam and Samsong for high-end stores. **Get a culture fix:** If you're interested in performing arts, explore the Sejong Centre in Jongno or stroll around the traditional district of Bukchon. **Avoid the tourists:** Pack a picnic lunch, hop on the metro and head to Olympic Park. **Admire the view:** N Seoul Tower on Namsan Mountain.

"koreans are warm-hearted, well-travelled and incredibly wise people."



Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Liz Ledden from agirlinasia.blogspot.com

"Phnom Penh is an up-and-coming destination with lots of cool cafes, bars, clubs and boutiques opening all the time. I love the friendly people, riverside setting, colonial architecture, temples, wandering monks, cafes, markets and boutiques. The best time to go is from October to March, with January the coolest month. Try to be there for the annual Bon Om Thook Water Festival, when the city's streets are packed with people from the provinces who go to witness dragon boat racing by day and colourful floats on the river by night."

best place to:

Dine: Romdeng - it's staffed by former street kids and serves real Cambodian

food. **Drink:** Rubies Wine Bar is a casual place where expats and travellers gather. **Dance:** The Heart of Darkness club attracts everyone from backpackers to ladyboys! **Swim:** The pool at Raffles Hotel Le Royal. **Sleep:** The Quay, a slick boutique hotel on the riverfront. **Shop:** Ambre, for chic clothing by Cambodia's premier fashion designer, Romyda Keth. **Get cheap food/drinks:** Try the stalls inside the Russian Market or around the Central Market. **People-watch:** Street 240 is the place to see and be seen. **Get your culture fix:** The Royal Palace. Beautifully manicured grounds, glittering temples and the Silver Pagoda. **Admire the view:** The rooftop of the FCC Phnom Penh (Foreign Correspondents Club). □



New York, USA

Anja Mutić from everthenomad.blogspot.com

"New Yorkers are some of the friendliest, most open people on the planet. You can strike up conversations anywhere, so making friends is easy. If you're looking for a party, you've come to the right place - there are so many festivals and events, like SummerStage in Central Park and Celebrate Brooklyn! in Prospect Park. September is a beautiful month to be in NY. People have come back from summer holidays so there's a great vibe, plus the weather is perfect for outdoor partying!"

best place to:

Dine: Abistro in Fort Greene for its low-key atmosphere, cool crowd and yummy French-Senegalese food. **Drink:** Big Bar in

the East Village. **Dance:** Nublu in Alphabet City - live music + small dance floor = fun! **Sleep:** Ace Hotel is really cool and well-located in Midtown Manhattan. **Shop:** The second-hand stores in East Village and the Brooklyn Flea on weekends. **Relax:** Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn. **Get cheap food/drinks:** Café Habana, a Cuban-Mexican joint in Nolita. It makes mean margaritas! **Get the best cocktail:** I love Cienfuegos in the East Village. Try the Vesperone. **Get your culture fix:** New Museum on the Bowery, Lower East Side. **Avoid the tourists:** Brooklyn. Look out for the loft parties! **Admire the view:** Cross the Brooklyn Bridge on foot and catch the Manhattan skyline.

COMPILED BY JOANNA BARRY. PHOTOGRAPHY GETTY IMAGES.