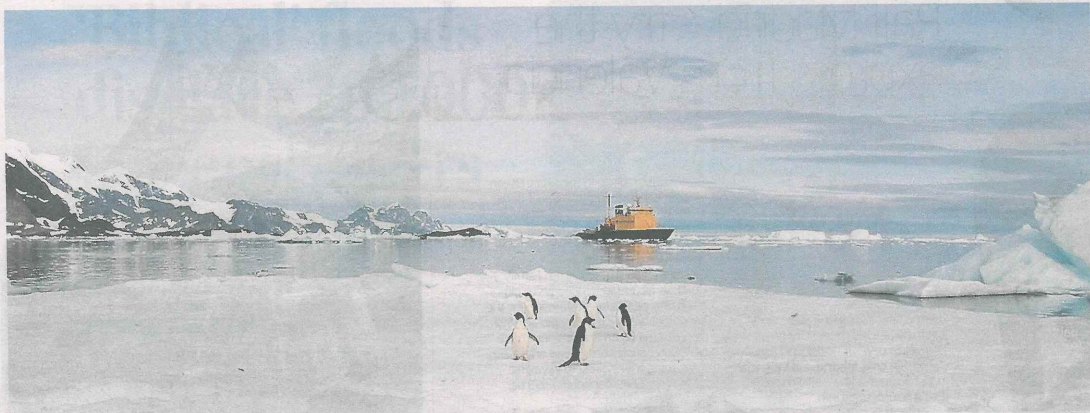


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THE DESTINATION

Quito (quito.com.ec) rounds off its year as American Culture Capital with a bang. It has enjoyed \$250m (£162m) in investment and its historic centre is the largest and best preserved in the Americas. Events include the Fiestas de Quito (26 November to 6 December) with Latino artists such as Willie Colon (salsa) and Calle 13 (reggaeton-hiphop).

THE ROUTE

Virgin Atlantic expands its flights to the Caribbean, adding a Saturday service to its Gatwick-Havana route and more flights to Tobago, Grenada and Barbados.

THE ACCOMMODATION

The luxurious 24-villa private resort **Song**



Saa opens in Cambodia, on Koh Quen and Koh Bong, in the Koh Rong archipelago. Rooms from US\$600 (£388) through Cazenove and Loyd (cazloyd.com).

THE CULTURAL ATTRACTION

Make sure you're at the **Bolshoi's New Stage in Moscow** (bolshoi.ru) on 24 November for the long-delayed Moscow premiere of Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*. Its refurbishment is scheduled to finish by late October.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Singapore's facelift continues apace this month with the opening of the first section of its mammoth **Gardens By The Bay** project (gardensbythebay.org.sg). This scheme aims to green 101 hectares of the city waterfront with tropical flowers and conservatories. A sort of equatorial Kew Gardens.

THE FAMILY HOLIDAY

Blow away the winter blues with a nine-night Wildlife, Culture and Coast Adventure in **north-eastern Sri Lanka**.

This Adventurous Families break, with Reef and Rainforest Tours (reefandrainsforest.co.uk), takes in snorkelling, safari trips and the chance to visit the famous Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela. From £1,695 per adult, £997 per child.

THE ADVENTURE

Travel to **Antarctica** on an expedition cruise and follow in the footsteps of the likes of Scott and Shackleton as your converted icebreaker carries you south around the remotest islands on the planet. Kayak among the icebergs and encounter Antarctic wildlife on this 12-day voyage of discovery with the Adventure Company (adventurecompany.co.uk). From £4,130.

THE WINTER SPORTS

The biggest ski lift infrastructure project for next winter looks likely to be the long-awaited connection of Italy's **Madonna di Campiglio** (campiglio.to) to its neighbour **Pinzolo**. A new gondola and several new pistes, including a black run, complete the 90-mile circuit.

Sample the atmosphere down at Yellowknife



THE DESTINATION

Nasa predicts 2012 will bring the best display of Northern Lights since 1958. Make for an aurora hub such as **Canada's Yellowknife**, where atmospherics are at their best (spectacularnwt.com).

THE ROUTE

Over in **Qatar**, **Doha International airport** (dohaairport.com) is due to open this month with a capacity of 24 million passengers a year. Combined with airport expansions in neighbouring Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the UAE will soon have more capacity than Europe's major airports combined.



THE ACCOMMODATION

The 210-room **Park Hyatt New York** (parkhyatt.com) will open opposite Carnegie Hall in December. Prices unavailable at time of going to press.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The 115-mile **Waitukubuli National Trail** (dominica.dm), the first long-distance path in Dominica, will open this month. The trail will run north to south and link Cabrits National Park and Scotts Head.

THE WINTER SPORTS

The new trend for resort developments is akin to Centerparcs-up-a-mountain, and the EdenArc (edenarc.com), at **Les Arcs**, far left, in France, will be one of the first of the new breed to open.

All prices are per person, based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated. Hotel room prices are per room per night, unless otherwise stated