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A MAGAZINE FOR THE GET-UP-AND-GO GENERATION

# TRAVELLER

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## An A to Z of unplanned travel

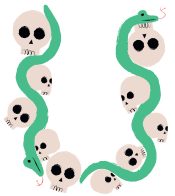
From an Alicante wine pilgrimage to catching ZZZs in an Icelandic bubble hotel, we've got 26 reasons to take a spontaneous weekend trip...



## is for salty Speedos

Barcelona

Wild swimming has become a must-do for water-loving masochists, but the Spanish have stepped it up a level. The Vies Braves ([viesbraves.com](http://viesbraves.com)) in Barcelona are pool-style lanes ranging from 500m to 2km in the water off the Catalan coast that provide a quirky way of swimming safely away from the beach crowds. So far, there are 25 routes and 25km of buoyed lanes to explore, from Sitges, south of Barcelona, to Portbou on the French border. First timer? Experts Lola Culsán and John Weller have some advice. Learn how to say, "Help I'm drowning!" in Catalán ("Auxili que m'ofego!"). Wear sunscreen and look out for lifeguard flags: green means safe, yellow means potential danger, red means don't even think about it. Don't swim alone – people will think you're a veteran and, if you get into trouble, it'll be too late. And never, ever, dive from rocks without checking the water's depth. *Wild Swimming Spain* by Lola Culsán and John Weller (£15.99/€20, Wild Things Publishing) is out now



## is for unheimlich

Berlin, Faro

*Unheimlich*, meaning uncanny in German,

describes things that are familiar yet weird. That's the best way to describe the latest gothic trend for visiting little-known places and oddities that simply make you want to go, "Ughh?" Here are our current faves.

### Bone Alone in Faro

The eerily captivating Capela dos Ossos, or Chapel of Bones, is exactly what it says on the tin: a chapel composed from the remains of 1,245 monks who were once buried in the nearby cemetery. If that tickles your (ahem) funny bone, there's a second one in Evora outside Lisbon.

### Red-hot culture in Berlin

Who knew the city's oldest crematorium would become the coolest place to hang out? Now reopened as a cultural institute, Silent Green ([silent-green.net](http://silent-green.net)) is home to a once-spooky mourning hall now used for concerts, while the underground chambers will soon be turned into exhibition rooms.



## is for VIPs

Palma

We're loving the way that Majorca is going all upmarket. Check in at the first resort hotel in Europe from Park

Hyatt ([mallorca.park.hyatt.com](http://mallorca.park.hyatt.com)), stop by chi-chi design hit the Sant Francesc Hotel Singular ([hotelsantfrancesc.com](http://hotelsantfrancesc.com)) or marvel at the latest addition to the Virgin Hotel Collection, Son Bunyola ([virginlimitededition.com](http://virginlimitededition.com)). At this rate, Palma will be synonymous with giga-yacht parties, Champagne spraying and gold-bar vending machines.