

The best new hotels, tours and holidays to book for 2019

From an adventure in Bhutan to anniversary celebrations in Havana, Gemma Bowes and Richard Mellor pick the best trips

Charleston, US

First direct flights

Grand seafront neoclassical mansions interspersed with palms, excellent slow-cooked southern barbecue, antiques shopping, and horse-drawn carriage rides — Charleston has plenty of old-world charm. South Carolina's genteel port city is about to become viable for a short break with the launch of British Airways' first direct flights from the UK on April 4 (twice a week, from £600 return, ba.com). The city has had a spate of interesting hotel openings in the past three years, and in January the Hotel Bennett opens (B&B doubles from £229, preferredhotels.com) with smart, light rooms. Travel company Bon Voyage (0800 3163012, bon-voyage.co.uk) has created a car-free tour of Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans, travelling by rail, and including a Mississippi paddle steamer cruise and Louisiana plantation home tour, from £2,195pp for 11 nights, including the new flights to Charleston, an internal flight, and a return from New Orleans.