



20 in '20

The limestone islands of Coron.

no. 6

## Coron: A different El Nido-esque paradise in Palawan.

If Palawan is the Philippines’ “last ecological frontier,” then Coron, which occupies the emerald-green northeastern corner of the province, is the gilt on the lily. Its natural bestowments—hulking karst islands, untouched beaches, thriving corals, transparent-turquoise bays—draw obvious parallels to nearby El Nido, though being a little farther off the tourist trail, it’s got a quieter, more local vibe. There are wrecks and reefs to dive, brackish lakes circled by vertical limestone

peaks, deserted white-sand islands and hot springs to languidly broil in at the end of the day. Diving off the north coast of Busuanga Island, you might even spot a dugong or two. Then there’s Coron Island Natural Biotic Area, which, with its indigenous settlements, swallows’ nests and ancient rock formations, has found a place on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Thanks to a new partnership between the Asian Development Bank and the Philippines Department of Tourism, 2020 will see infrastructure upgrades in both Coron and El Nido in anticipation of increased tourist arrivals to the region. Last year, direct flights from Cebu were introduced and a new five-star resort opened on the edge of **Bacau Bay** ([bacaubayresort.com](http://bacaubayresort.com); doubles from P8,150)—a sign of things to come. Our advice: take a lingering, eco-friendly look as soon as you can manage it. — B.V.V.O.



Mama Shelter.

no. 7

## Lille: French art and design.

Crowned the World Design Capital for 2020, this industrial city is now a stylish getaway. Bohemian-chic hotel **Mama Shelter** ([mamashelter.com](http://mamashelter.com); doubles from €80) debuted last summer and **Brasserie Coke** ([brasseriecokelille.fr](http://brasseriecokelille.fr); mains €23–€31) serves modern French cuisine under crystal chandeliers. Stop in nearby Roubaix at the renovated **La Piscine** ([roubaix-lapiscine.com](http://roubaix-lapiscine.com)), an Art-Deco pool turned museum showing textiles, portraiture, sculpture and more.

FROM TOP: DAVID VAN DRIESCHE; COURTESY OF MAMA SHELTER

no. 8

## Hanoi: Southeast Asia at full throttle.

The rambunctious capital of Vietnam is really revving up this year. In April, the city synonymous with peeling colonial buildings and *bia hoi* sidewalk bars will host the **Formula One Grand Prix** ([f1vietnamgp.com](http://f1vietnamgp.com)) for the first time ever, making it the only Southeast Asian metropolis aside from Singapore to feature in the 2020 World Championship. The race takes place on April 5 on a 5½-kilometer, 22-turn street circuit in Nam Tu Liem District.

Even if you’re not into fast cars, there’s plenty to see in this speedily modernizing city. Near the Opera House, a Bill Bensley project in the works (and rumored to become a Capella) promises design lovers a new top-end, and likely over-the-top, boutique abode. Worthy already-open new hotels include **La Siesta Premium** ([lasiestahotels.vn](http://lasiestahotels.vn); doubles from VND2,500,000) and **La Sinfonía del Rey** ([lasinfoniadelreyhotel.com](http://lasinfoniadelreyhotel.com); doubles from VND2,300,000), both notable for their opulent décor and chic rooftop bars—a rarity in Hanoi. You’ll find a hip swagger to the city’s metamorphosis, with craft beer joints and sultry speakeasies springing up throughout the Old Quarter, and Hanoians’ ongoing obsession with coffee inspiring an array of specialty roasters. Try **Blackbird Coffee** ([fb.com/blackbirdcoffeevn](https://fb.com/blackbirdcoffeevn)) or **Atelier Coffee Roaster** ([fb.com/ateliervn](https://fb.com/ateliervn)).

And, despite all the development, Hanoi is getting greener. The last few years have seen avenues in all 12 districts adorned with trees and flowers, while a 2016 government initiative to plant one million trees by 2020 was reportedly completed ahead of schedule. Hanoi also plans to phase out motorbikes in downtown areas by 2030 to combat congestion and pollution—so, to help keep things revving in the right direction, take a wind-in-your-hair city tour on the back of an electric scooter ([hanoibackstreettours.com](http://hanoibackstreettours.com); from US\$50 per person). — SHANNA MCGOLDRICK

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF LA SIESTA HOTEL; COURTESY OF AMAN



SkyBar at La Siesta Hotel, Hanoi.



The Aman way to fly.

no. 9

## All your favorite Amans in one private jet tour.

Can't decide which Aman to visit? The über-luxury hotel group has you covered in 2020 with their new private-jet tours that make multi-property stays a breeze, zipping between resorts via a 12-seater Bombardier Global 5000 aircraft. The service launches with four set journeys that can be customized, including the **Bali & Beyond** package that rounds up five Indonesian Amans, and the **Himalayas to the Sea** itinerary, where stays in Amankora’s five Bhutanese lodges are followed by a stint at Amanpuri in Phuket. With visa processing taken care of and a Private Jet Concierge at hand to keep the bar stocked, you’re free to enjoy thoughtful in-flight extras like tea ceremonies and Aman Skincare amenities to ensure a celebrity-like glow on arrival.