

Exceptional Travel Experiences 2016



Now You See It

It's a fact of life that's especially true now: Everything changes.

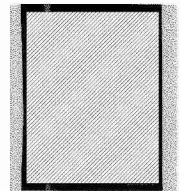
Out of nowhere, an art scene blooms.

Or a culinary hero retires.

Or the environment—well, you've seen the weather lately.

As a traveler, you must seize the moment.

THESE 13 UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES WON'T WAIT.



Now You See It

GLACIER JAUNTS GET SMARTER

Visiting the planet's troubled glaciers has often meant hopping on a gas-guzzling tour bus—talk about an ethical conundrum. But Alaska Coach Tours has begun testing electric-powered coaches for trips to the mighty 13-mile-long Mendenhall Glacier near Juneau, Alaska, and by 2017 it plans to roll them out to the public. Hey, when it comes to glaciers, we'll take any good news we can get.

Chunks that calve off Jakobshavn glacier account for 10 percent of the ice lost by Greenland's sheet.

TAKE IN THE FEARSOME BEAUTY OF A MELTING GLACIER

What's the risk? Greenland's Jakobshavn is the world's fastest-melting glacier.

By now you've likely read about Greenland. That it's melting twice as fast as we had originally thought. That an iceberg the size of Manhattan recently vanished. But visiting and seeing the Earth evolve in real time is infinitely more powerful than words on a page.

Every day, 170 feet of one particular glacier, Jakobshavn, melt away. This majestic block of ice is both ground zero for climate scientists and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Likewise, a trip there is a mix of shock and awe.

There's no better way to appreciate it than by touring with a scientist, which outfitter Cox & Kings can arrange on tours of the country. While it's too dangerous to walk on the glacier's surface, you can hike on mountains near the site, sail past it, or fly above it in a helicopter to get a fuller perspective on our present—and future. *From \$8,460/person.*
 —SARAH PURKRABEK

JAMES BALOG/AURORA PHOTOS