

# compass

Travel / Auto / People / Leisure

WHERE ARE YOU?

## DIRTY TRICK

The red dust flies as I shake the sieve, sorting the earth and throwing away chunks of sandstone. What I'm searching for is a glimmer of colour.

I'm noodling for opals in Coober Pedy, South Australia.

It's the local term for an activity that's just like panning for gold—only dustier.

Opal was discovered here in 1915, and there are now about 250,000 opal-mine shafts around the town. Visitors can sift through mullock

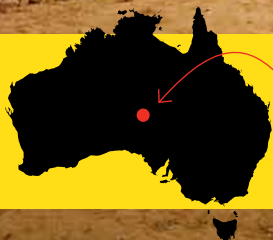
heaps, or piles of discarded rock, in public noodling areas.

After half an hour of sifting, my eye locks on a rock about the size of my fingerprint. I lick the stone to remove the dust and expose a milky opal with flashes of vibrant blue trapped inside.

If you're lucky enough to find an opal while noodling, it's yours to keep. It's thirsty work, though, so I take mine and repair to one of Coober Pedy's underground pubs for a cold beer. —Amanda Lee

NOODLE  
ABOVE GROUND,  
THEN VISIT  
THE UMOONA  
OPAL MINE

PHOTOGRAPHY HEMS/ALAMY



**COOBER  
PEDY**  
AUSTRALIA

LOCATION

**29.0139° S  
134.7533° E**

POPULATION

**AROUND  
1,800**

DID YOU KNOW?

To escape the area's intense heat, Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club members play the 18-hole grass-less course at night using glowing balls.





Star of the stage: a Mini wows the crowd at the 1966 R.A.C. event, one of the biggest rallies in the U.K.

MILESTONE

# MINI TO THE MAX

Celebrating 60 big years of one of the world's littlest cars—Andrew Raven

**WHEN THE FIRST MINI ROLLED OUT IN 1959**, it baffled the British motoring public. Shaped like a cube and absolutely tiny—it was just three metres long—the family sedan was unlike anything else on the road. But the Mini, which celebrates its 60th birthday this August, would prove to be revolutionary.

By mounting the engine sideways and pushing its wheels out to the corners, the car's designer, Alec Issigonis, created enough cabin space for four adults. The roomy interior combined with great handling and a rock-bottom price to make the Mini a massive hit.

Souped-up versions went on to dominate rally driving throughout the 1960s, cementing the car as an icon. "They were unbelievably agile little cars," says Gerry Hull, a Mini owner and president of the British Automobile Touring Association of Nova Scotia. "There wasn't another car that could touch them."

More than five million original Minis were built before production ended in 2000. And while BMW has revived the brand, Hull says the new Minis just aren't the same as the classic ones. "People today are so used to driving cars that drive *them*. They're missing out on the thrill of driving."

CULTURE

## sip the season

Pumpkin spice lattes are back on the menu in North America. Here's what the rest of the world brews up to welcome fall.

### Kompot

Just-harvested fruit is simmered with water and sugar, then preserved in jars. Berries and quince are often used in this Eastern European favourite.



### Persimmon punch

This sweet Korean drink is made with dried persimmons and served cold. But cinnamon and ginger flavours give *sujeonggwa* a warming quality.



### Ginger soy milk

Dipping temperatures mean it's time for a ginger variant of this traditional Chinese soybean beverage. It's typically served warm in a classic glass soda bottle.



### Sturm

In Austria, the autumn grape harvest brings this fizzy, low-alcohol wine made of freshly fermented grape juice. It must be consumed shortly after production.



### Herfstbok

*Herfst* means autumn in Dutch, and this darker, caramel-coloured beer from the Netherlands is made from fall's first malt harvest. —Andrea Yu



**SPOTLIGHT ON: BERLIN**

# CREATIVE CAPITAL

This city remains Europe's epicentre of cool, with its avant-garde art, a bohemian vibe and buzz-worthy cuisine

**THIS NOVEMBER 9**

marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the peaceful revolution when repression gave way to creativity, and an influx of artists and activists gave the city its cutting-edge feel. And while Berlin continues to reinvent itself, there's no better time to visit.

Berliners will celebrate the reunification of East and West with exhibitions and open-air concerts, as well as guided tours for visitors. But you can reflect year-round at historic sites like the East Side Gallery, which is the longest surviving section of the Wall and now covered in murals by 118 artists from 21 countries.

Find more murals at the Museum for Urban Contemporary Art, the world's first museum dedicated entirely to street art—complete with asphalt walkways to bring the street indoors. There are more than

170 other museums to choose from, including Museum Island, an ensemble of five world-class collections, plus smaller institutions, like the Stasi Museum in the former headquarters of the East German secret police.

Or visit a living museum by wandering Prenzlauer Berg, once the hub of East Berlin's counterculture. Now restored to its former glory, this neighbourhood houses more than 300 buildings that were spared by the Second World War bombings and are protected as historic monuments.

Beyond the culture (and pulsating techno clubs), Berlin is also a foodie city at heart, named—once again—Germany's gourmet capital by Michelin. Newly starred is Golvet, which serves classically French cuisine with American accents—or, as the restaurant playfully puts it, it's where scallop meets peanut butter. —Wawn Himmelsbach



1



3

PEOPLE-WATCHING  
ONCE HAD A  
DIFFERENT MEANING  
IN BERLIN



4



2

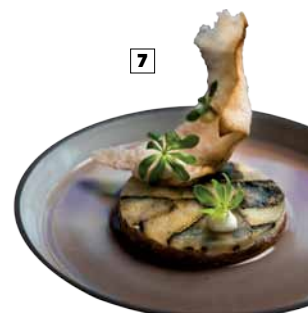


5

1. Seeing both sides at the Berlin Wall Memorial. 2. One of Prenzlauer Berg's stylish shops. 3. A button camera from the Stasi Museum collection. 4. Pausing at a trendy bar in Prenzlauer Berg. 5. Artist Ben Eine's colourful staircase at the Museum for Urban Contemporary Art. 6. A mural by Thierry Noir at the East Side Gallery. 7. Chef Björn Swanson's scallop carpaccio (with rhubarb, not peanut butter) at Golvet.



6



7



TECH

# ON A ROLL

Has LG just reinvented the TV? It sure looks that way. Earlier this year, the Korean electronics giant unveiled what it calls the world's first roll-up television, the **OLED TV R**. Its 65-inch screen (in 4k, naturally) unfurls from a rectangular metal base. Switch between multiple screen heights at the touch of a button—or stow the monitor altogether. As of press time, LG hadn't released a price, but analysts expect it could cost upwards of \$10,000.

—Andrew Raven



Stay on the beach until dusk to watch the sunset over the sea

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

# family secret

You've probably heard of the beaches of Phuket or Phi Phi. But the west coast of Koh Lanta is an even better choice for family travel to Thailand. Here's what makes it so special. —Arden Jobling

1

## THE BEACHES ARE GLORIOUS

Shallow waters make Klong Dao Beach a haven for parents and kids alike. Walk the 3.5-kilometre stretch of sand and you'll bump into family after European family dipping their toes in the crystal-clear Andaman Sea. This means there's no shortage of social life —think tons of new kid and couple friends.

2

## ...BUT THERE'S MORE THAN JUST BEACHES

If you arrived via ferry, you might have glimpsed Saladan, a village at the northern end of the island with plenty of shopping and a great night market on Wednesdays. If natural beauty is a draw, plan a visit to Mu Koh Lanta National Park or hike to the Khlong Chak waterfall.

3

## ...AND THE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT PICKS ABOUND

Between Klong Dao at the northern tip and Bamboo Beach in the south, you'll have your choice of accommodation, whether an exclusive five-star resort or a bungalow with a play park outside. Have picky eaters? Even this far-flung island is littered with restaurants serving everything from pad thai to pizza.

ASK AN EXPERT

# SHOP TALK



CAA auto expert  
Michael Schmidt  
answers your questions

**Q** We drive a 2006 Mazda 3 around town in the summer. We recently noticed a sulphur smell in the car when driving. What can we do about it?

*Bruce Campbell*

**A:** Sulphur (or rotten-egg) smells are usually due to the small amount of sulphur present in fuel. Normally, the car's catalytic converter will convert this sulphur into odourless sulphur dioxide. When it's not functioning properly, though, the sulphur is not converted, resulting in the smell. Unfortunately, you can't repair a converter, and it will need to be replaced.

Two other issues that could cause the smell are an engine running too hot or a broken fuel-pressure regulator, both of which should be diagnosed by a professional technician.

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