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ROUGH GUIDES: 100 BEST PLACES ON EARTH 2020

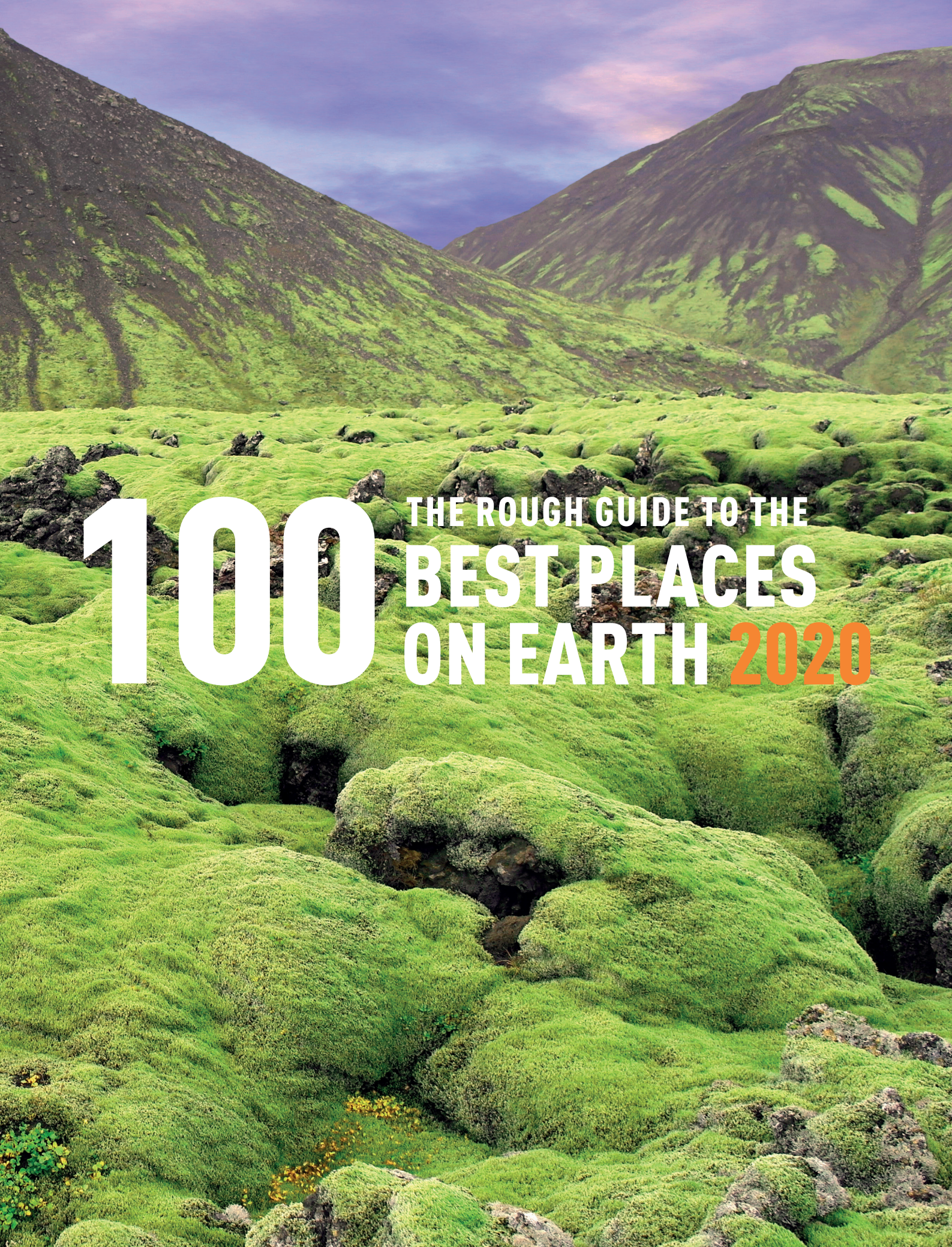
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100 THE ROUGH GUIDE TO THE **BEST PLACES** **ON EARTH 2020**



The background image is a full-page photograph of a volcanic landscape. In the foreground and middle ground, there are numerous dark, jagged volcanic rocks and boulders, all of which are heavily covered in a thick, vibrant green moss or lichen. The moss appears to be growing in a dense, carpet-like fashion over the dark surfaces. In the background, two large, steep volcanic hills or mountains rise up, their slopes also covered in patches of the same green moss, contrasting with the dark volcanic material. The sky above is a mix of soft, pastel colors, including shades of purple, pink, and blue, suggesting a time of day like dawn or dusk. The overall mood is serene yet dramatic, highlighting the resilience of nature in a harsh environment.

100 THE ROUGH GUIDE TO THE BEST PLACES ON EARTH 2020

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The publishers and authors have done their best to ensure the accuracy and currency of all the information in The Rough Guide to the 100 Best Places on Earth 2020, however, they can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury, or inconvenience sustained by any traveller as a result of information or advice contained in the guide.

HELP US UPDATE

We've gone to a lot of effort to ensure that the 1st edition of The Rough Guide to the 100 Best Places on Earth is accurate and up-to-date. But if you feel we've got it wrong or left something out, we'd like to know.

Please send your comments with the subject line "Rough Guide 100 Best Places Update" to mail@uk.roughguides.com. We'll credit all contributions and send a copy of the next edition (or any other Rough Guide if you prefer) for the very best emails.

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO THE 100 BEST PLACES ON EARTH 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Victoria Falls' thundering curtain of water crashing down along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe; Lisbon's white cobbled streets, lined with colourful pot plants, snaking up the hillside; age-old temples at Bagan in Myanmar waking up in blood-orange light and shrouded in mist. These are the 100 Best Places on Earth 2020. Taking in exhilarating mountain scenery, dazzling cityscapes, pristine tropical islands, atmospheric ruins and sweeping savannahs, this book reaches every corner of the globe in the search for 2020's most spectacular spots.

Rough Guides' experienced team of authors and editors has been on the hunt for places that will be big news in 2020, as well as destinations that are unmissable, underrated, up-and-coming or back on the tourist map. And while whittling the world down to a round 100 was always going to be a hard task, we think our selection of emerging destinations for 2020 is pretty exciting.

Of the new places on the scene, we urge you to explore Ethiopia's remarkable collection of rock-cut churches, Tbilisi's glorious huddle of Art Nouveau buildings and candy-coloured facades, and the musical heritage of America's Deep South in Memphis and along the Tennessee Music Pathways. Iconic favourites like the Taj Mahal and the Grand Canyon, as well as unsung beauties like Cornwall and the Andaman Islands, complete the picture.

What follows is the ultimate bucket list.

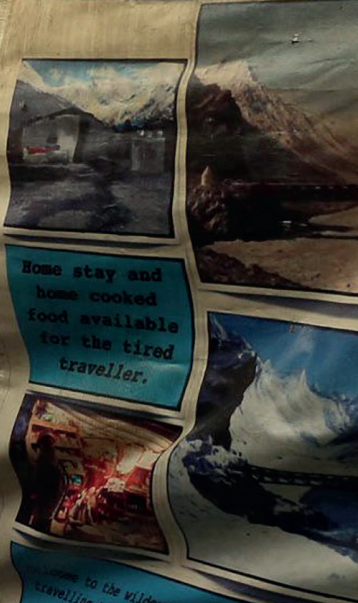


ASIA





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ANDAMAN ISLANDS

India's most remote region, the [Andaman Islands](#) are situated more than 100km off the east coast in the middle of the Bay of Bengal – only accessible via a domestic flight or a long ferry trip (three to five days) from the mainland. They're blessed with white sands, mangrove forests, palm trees and turquoise waters, and there's little to do here but relax in a hammock, eat a *thali* with fresh mango chutney and snorkel the coralfringed shorelines.

A long, thin cluster of approximately two hundred islands, the Andamans may be geographically closer to Thailand and Myanmar but they are unmistakably Indian in culture, religion and cuisine. All but the most remote are populated in parts by indigenous tribes, and still see relatively few tourists.

Visitors arrive at [Port Blair](#), once used as a gaol by the British Raj – the withering cells are now a tourist attraction – but most travellers quickly move on to the beaches of [Havelock](#) or its smaller neighbour, [Neill](#). The outlying islands are richest in natural beauty, with the beaches of [Smith](#) and the coral around [Cinque](#) particularly dazzling.