

Holiday hotspots: where to go in 2014

Start planning your 2014 travels with the help of our top 40 destination round-up. Some are hosting major events, others are under-the-radar places only just starting to attract tourists, but all of them are inspiring or exciting right now

Guardian writers

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7. Alaçatı, Turkey



Outdoor dining in Alacati. Photograph: Alamy

Alaçatı, on the Cesme peninsula near Izmir on Turkey's Aegean coast, was for centuries a Greek settlement within the Ottoman empire. Ancient houses in the town were taken over by Turkish refugees in the 1920s, and city folk from Izmir would spend summers here. Then windsurfers discovered the near-perfect conditions in its bay and a hip Istanbul crowd fell for its cobbled streets and blue-shuttered stone houses. Over the past 10 years, boho-chic hotels, restaurants championing local produce and antiques shops have mushroomed. The latest opening is Alavya (doubles from £159 B&B with Exclusive Escapes): 25 bedrooms, two restaurants, a spa and a swimming pool set in a walled garden. Pale rooms are filled with contemporary Turkish art, and there's a private yacht for guests. There are also plenty of cheaper hotels such as the Tas (doubles from £80 B&B) or the Incirliiev (rooms from £60 B&B). In the morning have coffee at Köse Kahve then browse Köse Dukkan for gifts and linens, and the art and antiques shops on Hacı Memis street, stopping for more coffee at Dutlu Kahve (Mulberry Cafe), then a country-style lunch at Asma Yapragi. By day the streets are a treasure trail of strange fruits and vegetables, at night they resemble a vast outdoor cafe or club. Fly to Izmir with easyJet (from April), Pegasus or Turkish Airlines. See [explorealacati.com](#).

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