New frontiers for 2013

From the islands of Chile to safaris in Uganda, travel industry leaders reveal their tips for this year's hot destinations. By Charlie McCann

island nation, 250km off the west coast of central Africa, is "the Galápagos of Africa", according to Tom Barber of Original Travel. As in the Galápagos, isolation means there are numerous species of plants and birds that occur nowhere else and, depending on the season, visitors can also see migrating giant leatherback turtles and humpback whales. Unlike the Galápagos, visitors can stay on the islands (rather than on cruise ships), making it easy to explore the forests, extinct volcanoes and colonial towns. The hotel of choice is Bom Bom Island Resort (www.bombomprincipe.com; doubles from €325), an islet off the north coast of Principe, with 21 luxurious bunga-lows. Activities include fishing, diving, snorkelling and whale-watching, and a portion of profits are invested in local conservation efforts - according to Barber the resort inspires "optimism that the islands could become a model for responsible tourism in the west African region"

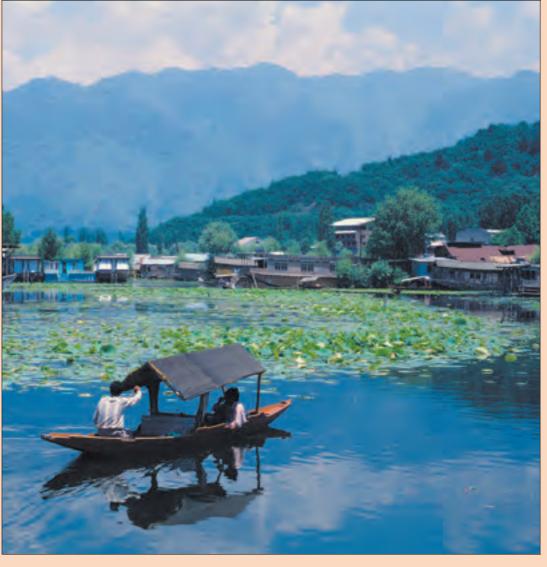
Kashmir and Ladakh "Indians refer to Ladakh as their best-kept secret," says Tom Marchant of Black Tomato. The mountainous region, part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, is also often called "Little Tibet" – it shares Tibet's high-altitude desert landscape, architecture and religion. Both Marchant and Barber recommend Shakti Himalaya (www.shaktihimalaya.com; \$4,290 for a seven-night tour), whose trips allow guests to stay in villagers' houses (which have been brought up to tourist standards) far off the beaten track. It makes sense to combine a trip to Ladakh with neighbouring Kashmir, where tourism has been expanding thanks to a calming of the

 ${\bf S\~{ao}}$ ${\bf Tom\'{e}}$ and ${\bf Pr\'{i}ncipe}$ This small political unrest. In 2011 tourists to the region topped 1m for the first time, and last November the UK Foreign Office withdrew its warning against travelling to Srinagar, Kashmir's main city. Unlike the dry landscapes of Ladakh, Kashmir's lakes and mountains look almost Alpine. It's "unbelievelle beautiful" and Language Beautiful". lievably beautiful", says Jonny Bealby of Wild Frontiers, who recommends staying on one of the traditional houseboats on Dal Lake (see for example www.buttsclermonthouseboat.com or www.royalhouseboats.com).

> Uganda Fifty years ago, Uganda was the leading safari destination in east Africa but decades of political and economic volatility effectively took the country off the tourist map. Now, though, those looking for an alternative to Kenya and Tanzania are returning to find what is, according to

The panel

Tom Barber is co-founder of Original Travel (www.originaltravel.co.uk); Jonny Bealby is a travel writer and founder of Wild Frontiers (www.wildfrontiers.co.uk); Gabriel Donida is executive director of Munich-based Atelier Voyage (www.ateliervoyage.com); Geoffrey Kent is founder and chairman of Abercrombie & Kent (www.abercrombiekent.co.uk); Tom Marchant is co-founder and director of Black Tomato (www.blacktomato.co.uk); Rory Pilkington is managing director of Bailey Robinson (www.baileyrobinson.com)



Rory Pilkington of Bailey Robinson, an "unspoilt wilderness that has not suffered the pressure of excessive tourism like elsewhere"

A new service (www.flyuganda.com) allows visitors to fly between the different national parks without chartering a private plane, making it easier to explore the country. Pilkington recommends Semliki Wildlife Reserve, deep in the Western Rift Valley, "where tropical rainforest meets grassy savannah". Stay at the award-winning Semliki Safari Lodge (www.wildplaces africa.com; doubles from \$405), where guests can accompany researchers as they study chimpanzees. Next, stay in one of eight luxury tents at Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp (www.sanctu-aryretreats.com; from \$418), which is high in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and is often visited by some of the forest's 400 wild gorillas. Finish with some swimming, fishing and sailing at Pineapple Bay Resort (www.wildplaces africa.com; doubles from \$400), on Bulago Island in Lake Victoria.

Clockwise from above: Dal Lake, Kashmir; Bom Bom Island in São Tomé; chimps at the Semliki Wildlife Reserve, Uganda



Istria, Croatia The Croatian peninsula of Istria "is almost like a highlights package of Europe, all neatly presented in one bite-size area", says Barber. "The bucolic interior is dotted with hilltop villages that look distinctly Tuscan, and the coastline is every bit as beautiful as that of the French Riviera."

While Croatia overall isn't known for its cuisine, it's a different story on tropical birds, sloths and monkeys.

the peninsula, which belonged to Italy until 1947. Winemaking and trufflehunting are taken very seriously. Accommodation options have been limited, but there are some hidden gems, including the recently refurbished Hotel Kastel (www.hotel-kastel) tel-motovun.hr; doubles from €83), housed in a 700-year-old building in the hillside town of Motovun. Seafood lovers should go to Rovinj, one of the Mediterranean's major fishing ports and Istria's answer to Saint-Tropez. Stay at the Monte Mulini, Rovinj's first five star (www.montemulinihotel.com; doubles from €177).

Chile's islands "Many visitors feel that they have 'done' Chile if they visit Atacama, Patagonia and Santiago," says Geoffrey Kent of Abercrombie & Kent. "But for the more inquisitive traveller, there is a collection of truly remote and mystical islands that are full of adventure and mysterious wildlife." He recommends Chiloé, where visitors can walk in the temperate rainforest and take boat



trips to spot whales and other marine wildlife, and the Juan Fernández Islands, where the castaway who inspired Defoe's Robinson Crusoe eked out an existence for four years. A trip to the latter is "an incredible experience", says Kent. "It has spectacular landscapes, unspoilt dive sites and some very eerie shipwrecks."

Nicaragua "Nicaragua is a forgotten corner of the world," says Gabriel Donida of Atelier Voyage, who predicts that the central American republic "will be the next sought-out destination for European travellers". He suggests staying at Mukul Resort (www.mukulresort.com; doubles from \$550), a new \$250m, 1,670-acre private beach community on the Emerald Coast, offering "stunning views, luxurious pampering and an authentic atmosphere". Guests can take short helicopter rides to surrounding islands and volcanoes or ride bikes through nature trails that are home to iguanas,

Diversions

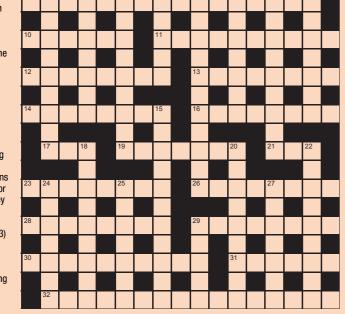
POLYMATH 691 SET BY SLEUTH

ACROSS 1 It grew according to legend when

- Joseph of Arimathaea thrust his staff in the ground (11.5) 10 A gas or oil lamp admitting air to
- the inside and outside of the flame 11 Belgian cyclist nicknamed "The
- Cannibal" who won the Tour de France five times (4,6)
- 12 African frog used in research (8) 13 Breathing organ in scorpions and
- spiders (4-4) 14 Robert, US defense secretary between 1961-68, later becoming
- World Bank president (8) 16 The force or energy which sustains the essential nature of a person or object according to Gerard Manley Hopkins (8)
- 17 Oxford college in which the Reverend Spooner was Warden (3)
- 19 Spanish nobleman of the lowest class (7)
- 21 A brother or sister (3)
- 23 A frame, stand or stool for keeping things off the floor (8)
- 26 A powerful aviation fuel (8) 28 Bornean tree (8) 29 Publisher's imprint or emblem (8)
- 30 Irish actor who played Oskar Schindler in Schindler's List (4,6) 31 Variegated garment once worn by

a jester (6)

- 32 The first woman to run as a vicepresidential candidate on a main
- party ticket in the US (9,7) DOWN 2 He disappeared after the murder of
- Sandra Rivett, his children's nanny, in 1974 (4,5) 3 Holy writing in Hinduism (7) 4 American writer of light verse
- noted for pithy lines such as "Candy/Is dandy/But liquor/is quicker" (5,4)
- 5 "The Surrender of ----", a painting by Velazquez (5) 6 The scheme to assassinate Elizabeth I in 1570 and replace her with Mary. Queen of Scots after an
- invasion by the Spanish (7,4) 7 A sacred precinct (7)
- 8 A representation of a serpent with its tail in its mouth (9) 9 Actively swimming organisms in a
- sea, lake etc (7) 15 He won his first Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in 1992, beating Goran Ivanisevic (5,6) 18 Breed of large poultry with golden
- plumage (9) 20 The ancient royal standard of
- France (9) 22 A shoulder belt for carrying
- ammunition (9) 24 An operatic cycle culminating in
- Götterdämmerung (3,4) 25 Turning against the direction of
- gravity (7) 27 A person who draws alcoholic
- drinks (7) 29 A short story (5)



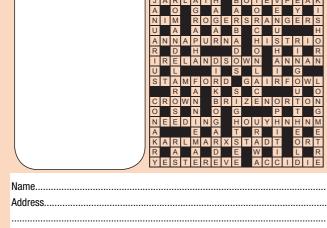
Wednesday January 16 wins a copy of Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. Entries, using the form below, should be addressed to Polymath No 691, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner's name will be published on Saturday January 19.

Jotter pad



Solution Polymath 689

Much loved for its wit and wisdom since 1870, Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable is a blend of language, culture, myth and legend. Edited by Susie Dent, this new edition contains an intriguing supplement of Brewer's Gems: facts, fables and curiosities from Brewer collections of the past. www.chambers.co.uk/brewers.php



CHESS LEONARD BARDEN

By general consensus, the best London Classic win was Vlad Kramnik's game featuring a double sacrifice of rook for minor piece. Luke Mcshane, the City trader and world's best

amateur, erred when 17...Nxa1! 18 Qa4+ is level. As played, 20 Rxc4! gave Kramnik dominant knights while 31 Rxd4! began the final attack which chased the black king from h6 to

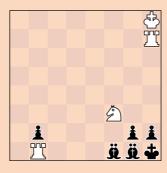
a7. The only blemish was 47 Qxc8? when 47 Qb6+! Ka8 48 Bd5+ wins. Kramnik's style used to be rather dull and solid, but in his late thirties he has transformed it with

fresh verve and energy.

V Kramnik v L McShane 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 a6 5 g3 dxc4 6 a4 e6 7. Bg2 c5 8 O-O cxd4 9 Nxd4 Nbd7 10 Nc2 Qc7 11 Bf4 e5 12 Bd2 Nc5 13 Bg5 Be6 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Nd5 Qd8 16 Nce3 Nb3 17 a5 Rc8? 18 Ra4 Nd4 19 Nb6 Rc7 20 Rxc4! Bxc4 21 Nexc4 Nb5 22 Qb1 Qd4 23 Rd1 Qc5 24 e3 Be7 25 Qf5 Kf8 26 Bd5 Kg7 27 Qg4+

Kh6 28 e4 Nd4 29 Ne3 f5 30 Qh3+ Kg7 31 Rxd4! exd4 32 Nxf5+ Kf8 33 Qh6+ Ke8 34 Bxf7+ Kd8 35 Qg7 Rf8 36 Nxd4 Rc6 37 Nxc6+ bxc6 38 Qg4 Kc7 39 Qd7+ Kb8 40 Qd2 Kc7 41 Qd7+ Kb8 42 Kg2 Bd6 43 b4 Qd4 44 Qxc6 Ka7 45 Kh3 Qd1 46 Nc8+ Rxc8 47 Qxc8? Qf1+ 48 Kg4 h5+ 49 Kxh5 Resigns.

1981



White mates in eight (by V Eaton, 1939). World War Two, and the white king must escape aerial bishop checks to achieve Rxh2 or Rxg1 mate. Which square is the bomb shelter? Solution, back page

BRIDGE PAUL MENDELSON

To look down at your first hand of the new year and see North's cards is bad enough. To have your partner misplay the hand as well augers poorly for

♠ 643 **♥** 52 **♦** 7653 **♣** 7652 \mathbf{E} ♠ A10 **♥** 743 ♥ KJ10986 ♦ AKQ109 **♣** J108 ♣ Q943 ♠ KQJ9875

Game All Dealer: West North East South West 1D

48

NB 1H

♥ AQ

West led A♦ and, understandably, South was disappointed with dummy. However, it contains three trumps and that could, and should, have proved significant. West continued with K♦ and Q♦, and

declarer trumped. South led K♠, which lost to West's A♠ and, when West led a fourth diamond. South trumped that also. South drew the final trump and then, unable to avoid losing a heart, he played out all his trumps, hoping that an opponent might make a mistake. Neither did, and East scored his K♥ at the end.

South complained about North's hand but North, showing remarkable restraint, refrained from commenting about South's skills. To make the contract, declarer must take the heart finesse and find East with K♥. To do this, he must reach dummy – and there is a way. He

ruffs the third diamond with 7♠; leads his K♠ to lose to A♠, ruffs the fourth diamond with 8♠ and draws the last trump. Now, he lays down the carefully preserved 5♠ and wins in dummy with 6♠. If he plays a heart and takes the winning finesse, the New Year starts wonderfully. As it was, only more alcohol could dull the pain...

CROSSWORD 14,203 SET BY BRADMAN

ACROSS

- forward, cyclists in bunch (7) 5 Heavenly body with sex appeal concealed in sweater (not male) (7) 9 Flat as seen from front and back (5)

10 Flement, the ultimate for

- rheumatism, found in garden plant 11 Gosh, cleric may be someone to show you the error of your ways! (9)
- 12 Specialised language leader's put out - it's just gas (5)
- 13 Decide to write for oneself and die (4.2.3.5)18 An old politician, tamed with
- alertness withering? (5.9) 20 Explorer died, someone very thin (5) 22 A freer wit, nonconformist spirit (9)
- 24 Cricketer getting minimal runs in a defeat gets the bird (9) 25 Rubbish left out - at the end of this?
- 26 One on the attack, supporting English philosopher (7) 27 Country girl going to regional corners

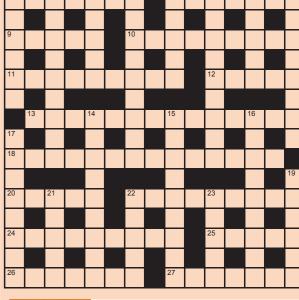
DOWN

- 1 China has a church that's a magnificent building (6) 2 Animated river murmured audibly a city's symbol (5,4)
- 3 Fine material agricultural pioneer dropped on middle of field (5) 4 Spooner's malice not what's wanted
- 5 One of those out to make a decision? (5)
- 6 Bones thrown in slag heap, any number buried (9) 7 Article without much substance,

leader in Guardian? (5)

- 8 Muse at home after drink, having dined (8) 14 Like bird that's got worm outside her
- home without messing about (9) 15 Figure of speech from the man with funny stories (9) 16 Pearl may be under complete control
- (2.1.6)**17** Bashful star (3,5) 19 There's nothing right with Kent location – it's hell on earth (6)
- by walker (5) 22 Look inside for fox (5) 23 A god devoid of emotion having lost a love (5)

21 Warning signal – lake to be avoided





Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and So You Think You Can Spell by David L. Grambs and Ellen S. Levine, published by A&C Black, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday January 16. Entries marked Crossword 14,203 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on January 19.

Solution 14.202

Christmas Crossword





Address

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk



Winners Crossword 14,183: G Bernard, Paris, France Crossword 14,188: AV Dewar, Co. Wicklow, Ireland; G Telfer, Shipley, W Yorks; S Bergomi, Mevrin, Switzerland Crossword 14,189: C Borg, Mallorca, Spain

L Tepla, Voorburg, Netherlands; M Edwards, Oldham, Lancashire Polymath 688: M Rainey, Hampshire

Christmas Crossword: M Nichols, Rugby;

Polymath 689: M Williamson, Essex