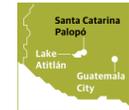


# On the radar How art is putting heart back into a Guatemalan community



Full spectrum ... villagers experiment with colours in Santa Catarina Palopó

Guatemala's Lake Atitlán is famed for its striking scenery: cobalt-blue waters fringed with dramatic volcanic cones and scattered Mayan villages. And now the site is about to add a rather different attraction to its shores. The lakeside community of Santa Catarina Palopó is embarking on an ambitious project to turn itself into a monumental piece of artwork, with a view to generating an alternative source of tourism income for locals.

It's the brainchild of Harris Whitbeck, a Guatemalan journalist and believer in art as an agent of social change, whose family has links to the lake going back three generations. When he saw how renowned Dutch artists Jeroen Koolhaas and Dre Urhahn had transformed the Rio de Janeiro favela of Vila Cruzeiro with vibrant colour, the idea of Pintando Santa Catarina Palopó was born.

"Studies show that if the physical environment of a community is improved, there's a positive impact on inhabitants. There's an increased sense of belonging, crime levels fall and new businesses open up," Whitbeck said.

The community, from the mayor down, was on board from the start and the project has created a greater connection between the villagers - many of whom only speak their native language, Kaqchikel - and the Spanish-speaking "weekenders" from Guatemala City.

One of Central America's largest cement companies, Cementos Progreso,

donated lime to manufacture paint. Whitbeck discovered that lime-based paint is cheap to produce and has anti-fungal and anti-humidity properties, as well as a thermal effect.

The company also covered the fees of the Dutch duo - better known as Haas & Hahn - who ran a Color Lab workshop in November last year. A wall surrounding the football pitch was used to experiment with colours, and a plaza became a design prototype.

The community came up with the final idea with a Guatemalan design company; each family can choose from five colour combinations and a series of stencil designs, all based on their traditional huipil tunic, and painting will start this week. There are 800 houses and enough paint for 100 so far, so an "adopt-a-house" scheme is being set up. Groups of up to five visitors, who pledge \$500, will be assigned a house and can help the family paint it (hotels in the area, including Casa Palopó and Villas Santa Catarina, will offer discounts to volunteers).

Whitbeck estimates it could take up to two years to complete the project, depending on funds. The hope is that the village will attract more tourists and generate money for homestays, guides, restaurants and weavers.

"The community will determine how the project evolves," said Whitbeck. "They might create a [tour] guides' cooperative, or weave textiles based on the new design. Painting is just the beginning."

More details at [facebook.com/pintandosantacatarina](#); to donate, go to [santacatarina.gt](#) (website goes live soon)

**Sarah Gilbert**



## World view Crowded houses, Hong Kong

Hong Kong is "a cauldron, seething, hissing, hooting, arguing, enmeshed in a labyrinth of tunnels and flyovers, with those skyscrapers erupting everywhere into view". That was how Jan Morris described the appeal of the city in 1988, four years before the demolition of Kowloon Walled City, infamous as the most densely populated settlement on Earth. But it's difficult to get your head around how crowded it is until you see it from a different perspective.

Andy Yeung spent two months taking photographs from a drone to highlight the hive-like structure of the city. "Part of [Walled City] still exists in many of the current high density housing apartments, where the only view out the window is a neighbour's window," says Yeung.

## Free world Promenade Plantée: Paris's elevated park

Paris has some of Europe's most beautiful parks but for something different search out Promenade Plantée. It's a magical, green stroll 10 metres above the street, which begins at the Bastille and winds through the 12th arrondissement for three miles, coming out before the Bois de Vincennes.

When a mid-19th century viaduct was converted into the world's first elevated park walkway in 1993, most locals thought it a waste of money. Parisians needed time to take a project like this to heart, but now the Promenade is a cherished landmark.

The start is the crossroads at rue de Lyon and avenue Daumesnil, with staircases and lifts along the route, perfect to nip down and check out the Viaduc des Arts: 45 brick archways transformed into artisan showrooms that range from violin-makers to glass blowers. The city panorama across Parisian rooftops can be spectacular.

At one point a modern building appears split in two by the walkway, while a long cable footbridge stretches across the Jardin de Reully. Then the elevated section heads to street level - becoming accessible to bikers, rollerbladers and skateboarders, too.

[en.parisinfo.com](#)  
**John Brunton**

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## Snapshots Kevin Rushby in Papua New Guinea



**Gorgonian fan dance**  
A diver passes behind a Gorgonian fan coral on the reef at Restorf Island in Kimbe Bay, New Britain. The reefs here are some of the richest marine environments on Earth - Kimbe Bay contains half of all the coral species found in the Indo-Pacific region.



**Drifting off**  
Tufti is on mainland Papua New Guinea and is an area of tropical fjords and rich fishing grounds for the indigenous people. These fishermen still mostly use dugout outrigger canoes in order to get around since the area has no roads.



**Road blocked**  
View from the plane coming in to the capital, Port Moresby. Like all towns here, Moresby is unconnected by road to other towns, and only accessible by boat and plane.  
[Follow Kevin at instagram.com/kevinrushby\\_travel\\_adventure](#)

Share your travels in Instagram pictures by sending a series of three snaps, plus captions, and by adding #guardiantravelsnaps

## Hostel openings

Safestay, which runs luxury hostels in London, York and Edinburgh, has expanded into Europe. It has taken over the U Hostel in Madrid and is converting a building in Paris. From €20, [safestay.com](#)



## Easy money

A new app could end the frustration of blocked bank cards on holiday. Users link all their cards via the app, then use a Curve card to pay while abroad - and the exchange rates are low, too. [imaginecurve](#)



## Five of the best Hidden beaches and coves in Ibiza



**Cala Mastella, Santa Eulalia**  
Much of the area north-east of Sant Carles de Peralta is bucolic, with smallholdings and farms, dusty roads and sleeping dogs. This is the right beach for the neighbourhood: natural, quiet and accessed along a dirt road through cane and pine forests.  
● 5km from Sant Carles de Peralta



**Cala Xarraca, Sant Joan de Labritja**  
This rough sandy beach is relatively bustling for the island's north end but use it as a base for exploring quiet neighbouring coves, starting with Sa Cova de Xarraca, just around the rocks. Alternatively, stay at Cala Xarraca; the area of flat rocks is quieter.  
● C-733 Sant Joan to Portinatx



**Punta de Ses Portes, Sant Josep**  
This quarry - yes, quarry - in the Ses Salines natural park is half a millennium old and splashed by clear sea. The holes left when rock was removed to make the walls of the Dalt Vila are now shallow, smooth-walled pools with spectacular views.  
● 8km from Ibiza airport, via PM-802



**Cala Tarida, Sant Josep**  
There are steps down from a car park roundabout to this west-coast beach. It's popular but also wide and long, with great rock formations. Head to the rocky areas at the end of the beach and grab a rock platform for an uninterrupted bask with sea view.  
● Park at the Cala Tarida Norte car park



**Caló des Moltons, Port de Sant Miquel**  
It's a resort (with an ugly development scar) but the northern Port de Sant Miquel up at the end of the road still feels remote, clean, fresh and otherworldly, with plenty of space on the wide sandy beach for all.  
● Approx 1.3km from Cala de Sant Vicent  
**Sorrel Downer**  
See the full list of 10 Ibizan beaches on Tuesday at [theguardian.com/travel](#)

## The foodie traveller tucks into ... Dumplings in Tbilisi, Georgia

Centuries of invading empires have left Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, with a pleasantly eclectic palate, so perhaps it's not surprising that the national dish, *khinkali*, is said to have come from 13th-century Mongol warriors.

Khinkali look like a chunky cousin of the Taiwanese soup dumpling, *xiaolongbao*. Most commonly filled with a beef-pork mince mix, herbs and a little water, the parcels are steamed to create a moreish broth within.

Locals are skilled in the art of extracting the hot juices in one bite, cautiously using the top knot of dough as a handy grip. Plates strewn with discarded knots sit on cafe tables.

Kartveli Tours founder Irakli Shengelia, who lives in the city, says khinkali are best eaten with alcohol: "We can't decide whether vodka or beer is best so we drink both: *chakiduli* is a shot of vodka followed by a beer."

Residents revere khinkali and only tourists dare relegate them to a mere side dish. Some restaurants have a minimum order of five and, as Irakli says, "an average Georgian eats between six and 10 in one sitting".

Khinkali are traditionally the food of shepherds in the Tusheti and Pshavi regions, which is where you'll apparently still find the best. Fortunately, for those who can't navigate remote mountain passes, the capital is peppered with decent spots to sample the national staple.

Tbilisi is vegetarian-friendly so, alongside meat, you'll find fillings of cheese, mushrooms and mashed potato. Khinkali may be revered, but they're rarely expensive. An order of five at Veliaminovi, a traditional restaurant in the old town, will set you back about £1.15.

**Louise Quick**



Do the twist ... khinkali were bought to Georgia by Mongol warriors

## Travel in numbers Ziplines

**114m**  
The height of the pop-up zipline at the Eiffel Tower, open until tomorrow

**600m**  
The vertical drop on the world's tallest zipline, in Kathmandu, Nepal

**2,545m**  
The length of the world's longest zipline, in Copper Canyon, Mexico