Chuifong Eng, 84, embraced by her family, is one of many Asian-American elders who have experienced the surge of attacks against AAPI communities.
The challenges of the past year and a half have transformed our world, and few industries have been as affected as travel, tourism and hospitality. In many ways, our third annual list of the World’s Greatest Places is a tribute to the people and businesses at the forefront of those industries who, amid extraordinary circumstances, found ways to adapt, build and innovate. It shines a light on ingenuity, creativity, revitalization and open positions in destinations across the world. To compile this list, TIME solicited nominations of places from our international network of correspondents and contributors, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences. The result: a list of 100 unique destinations, from the idyllic Portuguese town of Arouca, now home to the world’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge, to the continent of Antarctica, which this December will experience a rare total solar eclipse. And while it may not be possible to safely visit each place just yet, they’re all worth reading (and dreaming about) until it’s time, once again, to explore.

With reporting by Leslie Dickstein, Mariah Espada, Alejandro de la Garza, Nik Popli, Madeline Roache and Simmone Shah
Arouca, Portugal
Bridging the gap

With its white churches and tiled town square, Arouca, a Portuguese town an hour south of Porto, was already noted for its beauty. Now, thanks to the debut of 516 Arouca, the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, Arouca is receiving global attention for its engineering. Made from steel cables, the 1,693-ft.-long structure is suspended 574 ft. above the Paiva River, a popular spot for rafting, and takes around 10 minutes to cross. The newly opened attraction can be found in Arouca Geopark, part of UNESCO's European Geoparks Network and known for its nature tourism and extreme-sports activities. The park also boasts a steep and zigzagging 5.1-mile-long wooden walking path; Roman and medieval ruins; and the Monastery of Arouca, one of the country's largest granite buildings.
—Tamara Hardingham-Gill

Desaru Coast, Malaysia
A beach escape

The saying "If you build it, they will come" is very true of Desaru Coast, an ambitious new resort area in the state of Johor. Spanning more than 3,900 acres along a pristine 17-km stretch of beachfront real estate, the area offers some of Malaysia's most coveted luxury bolt-holes. In 2020, the One&Only Desaru Coast, the brand's first property in Asia, debuted as a spectacular tropical sanctuary with a spa and golf course. Also newly opened is the Anantara Desaru Coast Resort and Villas, with lush gardens and lagoon swimming pools. Other draws include championship golf courses and cruises through the Sedili Wetlands, a freshwater swamp home to the endangered waterfowl. The imminent opening of the Desaru Coast Ferry Terminal will offer increased transit options for Singapore and Indonesia.
—Duncan Forgan

Virgo Gorda, British Virgin Islands
Respite and renewal

After being hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, the British Virgin Islands are on the mend. And nowhere in the territory's approximately 60 islands and cays is the recovery more noticeable than in the North Sound on the northern coast of Virgin Gorda, home to several iconic island resorts. The Gorda Corridor sees the return of classic retreats including Rosewood Little Dix Bay, a family-friendly resort that offers seclusion along a mile-long beach, after a four-year closure and a multimillion-dollar renovation. Saba Rock, a small island (and beloved watering hole for boaters) that was previously devastated because of hurricane damage, has been fully renovated and reopens in the fall as a nine-suite private resort. And neighboring Bitter End Yacht Club, also in the midst of rebuilding, plans to unveil a clutch of bungalows and a restaurant and bar by year's end, signaling, one hopes, a sweet start to 2022.
—Sarah Greaves-Gabbidon

Phu Quoc, Vietnam
Idyllic paradise

Known as the "jewel of Vietnam," this teardrop-shaped resort and fishing island has become one of the fastest-growing destinations in Southeast Asia. In 2019, Phu Quoc attracted 5 million visitors, a 30% increase from the year before. It's expected to reopen to vaccinated international travelers in the fall, and continues to entice tourists with visa-free stays for up to 30 days. Lodging options abound: earlier this year, the expansive, 375-villa New World Phu Quoc Resort, which boasts a private stretch of beach and lush landscaped gardens, made its debut, as did the $2.8 billion Phu Quoc United Center, a massive entertainment complex featuring a theme park, golf course and casino—in addition to a series of hotels. Nearby, the Regent Phu Quoc, a new ultra-luxury hotel with five swimming pools and floor-to-ceiling beach-facing windows, is expected to welcome its first guests by December.
—Don Q. Dao

Lijiang, China
A launch point for adventure

With its ancient cobbled lanes and overlapping waterways, the Lijiang Old Town in Yunnan province, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, has long been a popular escape destination for China's city dwellers. The smoky flavors of dishes from the country's Naxi minority are popular with visitors, as is the selection of craft beers and cocktails in the charming pub Stone the Crows. And several new luxury hotels work to highlight the region's natural beauty. Among them: Hylia Vintage Hotel and Cloud Nature Experience Center, whose undulating, walkable roof mimics the rolling hills behind it; and Hilton Lijiang, which has its own hanging garden. Lijiang is also the main access point for Tiger Leaping Gorge—a spectacular hiking trail tracing the Jinsha River—which just reopened after a half-year closure for renovations.
—Charlie Campbell