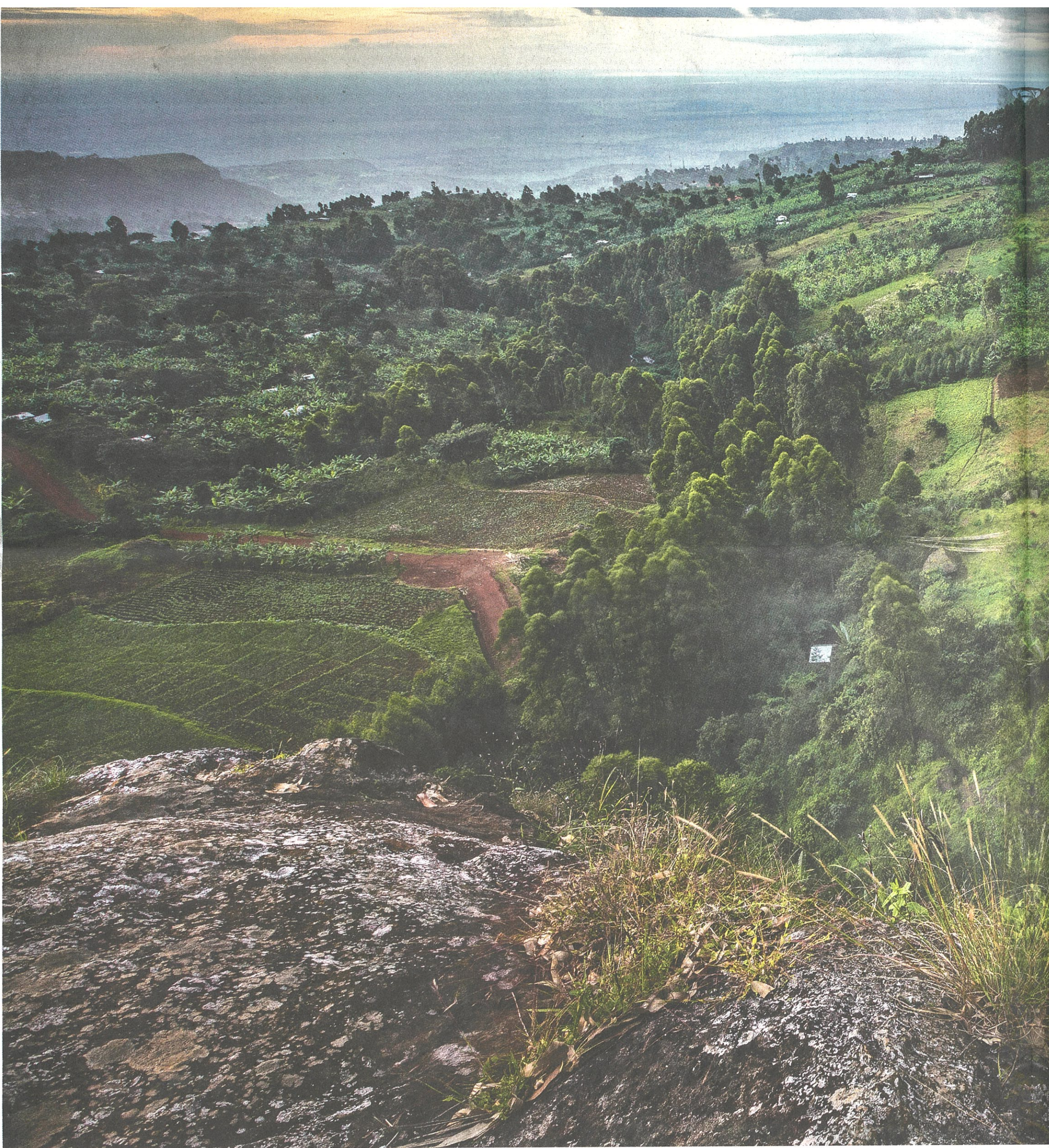


# Travel

The New York Times







30 **UGANDA** Sipi Falls comprises three waterfalls in eastern Uganda, near Mount Elgon.

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### Uganda

A primate capital and birder's paradise becomes more accessible.

Landlocked in east-central Africa, Uganda has long been in the shadow of Kenya, Tanzania and other countries more popular with visitors on safari. But Uganda, described by some as the “Pearl of Africa,” with its own rich wildlife, is set to become more accessible, thanks to the resurrection last summer of the country's national carrier, Uganda Airlines. Uganda is one of the world's primate capitals, with 15 species (four of which are endangered) and the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a renowned mountain gorilla sanctuary. The UNESCO World Heritage Site, in southwestern Uganda, is home to roughly half the world's mountain gorillas. The park's gorilla-trekking safaris limit contact to eight visitors per gorilla group per day, and proceeds from their trekking permits go toward conservation efforts and protecting the animals from poachers. The dense forest mountain park, which ranges in elevation from 3,810 feet to 8,880 feet, also features a scenic waterfall trail framed by ancient ferns and wild orchids, and is a birder's paradise, with 350 species of forest birds. *VIVIAN SONG*

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### Paris

The food and fashion capital renews itself with a green push.

Ever-resilient Paris had its setbacks in 2019. First came the Yellow Vest protests, then the Notre-Dame fire. But with a slew of big openings — restaurants by marquee-name chefs included — the City of Light is renewing itself. Last July, the Jules Verne restaurant, on the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, introduced a gleaming new look and a new, high-profile chef, Frédéric Anton. In June, the Bourse de Commerce will open as a museum showcasing the contemporary art collection of the French billionaire François Pinault, with a restaurant by the acclaimed father-and-son duo Michel and Sébastien Bras. In July, the 18th-century Hôtel de la Marine will open its doors as a national monument, with a tearoom by Alain Ducasse. In April, the Palais Galliera, a fashion museum, will reopen with a larger exhibition space, and after a 15-year renovation, the department store La Samaritaine will reveal a stunning redesign and a luxury Cheval Blanc hotel. Paris will be greener, too, with what is expected to be the world's largest rooftop urban farm, NU Nature Urbaine, opening in April, and 247 acres of new vegetation across Paris's rooftops, facades and walls through an ambitious city program. *RATHA TEP*





MARCUS WESTBERG

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### Lake District, England

The 'loveliest spot' is now even more so.

William Wordsworth's lyricism shaped the Romanticism movement, which, for the celebrated poet, was epitomized by the Lake District, a verdant region of peaks and valleys in northwest England that was designated a World Heritage Site in 2017. In 2020, the 250th anniversary of Wordsworth's birth, an \$8 million project, Reimagining Wordsworth, will highlight the writer across his pastoral Cumbrian homeland, notably in the village of Grasmere. Wordsworth lived here, at Dove Cottage, where he wrote seminal works like "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." At Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum, the outdoors will be embraced with a new courtyard, walking trails, expanded galleries and a recreated orchard, while the village is unveiling a community garden with local plants from Wordsworth's time. In Cockermouth, Wordsworth's birthplace, the Wordsworth House and Garden will also host an anniversary exhibit from mid-March. But perhaps the most memorable way to pay tribute to the pioneering environmentalist is to roam the countryside — poetry readings will be held around Cumbria and beyond — guided by his words: "Let nature be your teacher." **ANNELISE SORENSEN**

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### Tajikistan

A high-altitude haven for adventure travelers gets easier to visit.

This landlocked country in Central Asia is becoming a prime spot for hiking, white-water rafting and climbing, even though it's one of the least visited countries in the world. With little internet access and a developing infrastructure, it's pure off-the-grid travel — at least for now. The Wakhan Valley is a rugged region that sits mostly in northern Afghanistan but stretches into Tajikistan. Reached via the Pamir Highway, this area offers access to an ancient Silk Road fortress in Namadgut, where you can bathe in natural hot springs, climb the rocks above the city of Langar to discover ancient stone carvings, explore the fascinating mix of cultures or gaze at the Milky Way from the mountains of Murghab. (The tour company Remote Lands offers an itinerary — the Pamir Highway Road Trip — based on this dramatic route.) With 2020 comes greater accessibility: a further easing of visa restrictions, new flight connections with Somon Air and additional bus service on new highways connecting major towns. Hilton also recently debuted a flagship property in the capital, Dushanbe, the first of 10 new hotels opening across the country. **DANIEL SCHEFFLER**