

TRAVEL • CULTURE • STYLE • ADVENTURE • ROMANCE!

PASSPORT

DESTINATION
WEDDINGS

WHAT'S NEW IN
NEW ORLEANS

NEW YORK STATE
TRAVEL NIRVANA

INSIDER'S GUIDE
WASHINGTON D.C.

VIP LOUNGE
STEVE GRAND

WORLD EATS
MIAMI



MAY 2016
USA \$4.95 CANADA \$5.95



HAUTE COUTURE BARBIE

Step off the red carpet and onto the museum floor as some of fashion's leading houses (Christian Dior, Donna Karan, and Giorgio Armani, among them) meet to style the world's most ubiquitous doll: Barbie. Welcome to Montreal's **Barbie EXPO**, the world's largest permanent collection of Barbie dolls, located in the heart of Les Cours Mont-Royal. Marvel at Barbie's evolution, from her 1957 debut at the American International Toy Fair to the reboots of today, and spot iconic recreations of Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, and Grace Kelly. Included in the thousands of dolls on display are Barbies dressed in film-inspired styles, from *Grease* to *The Hunger Games*. While admission is free for all, donations are graciously accepted on behalf of Make-A-Wish Québec. \$40 www.expobarbie.ca.



—Chris Rohey

ple the local culture. Along with delicious beers and delightful costumes are some of the Czech Republic's most savory dishes ready to be gobbled up and washed down. www.ceskyprvifestival.cz

ENGLAND LONDON

England, home to the Queen, lovely tea, and world-famous gardens—it is no wonder that the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** has been held in London since 1913. It might seem like a disappointment to ditch the outdoors for this indoor flower show, but this spring-in-London classic won't disappoint. The highlight this year is the *Orient Express* exhibit with flowers arranged in an 80ft-long carriage from the 1920s. A great way to spend the weekend English style and experience the sophistication that is British culture. May 24–28. www.rhs.org.uk

FRANCE PARIS

Pretend you're in Paris circa 1925 with flowing jazz at the famous **Saint-Germain-Des-Prés Jazz Festival**. The festival, from May 19–31 is held at quintessential Parisian landmarks, including the Saint-Germain-des-Prés church, Maison des Océans, and Paris-Sorbonne University. This is the perfect festival to set the summer off right and enjoy the Parisian sun and setting. Occurring annually since 2001, the festival features many big names, and was the first place Norah Jones played in France. Buy your tickets now! www.festivaljazzsaintgermainparis.com

IRELAND DUBLIN

The **International Dublin Gay Theater Festival** was established in 2004 to commemorate the 151st anniversary of the birth of Oscar Wilde. Ever since, the festival has provided a platform for new Irish and international works with broad gay themes. Immerse yourself in the rich history of queerness and theatre from May 2–15 with hundreds of locals and international guests alike. www.gaytheatre.ie

NETHERLANDS AMSTERDAM

Since 1970, **PinkPop Festival** has been host to the music industry's top artists, making for a weekend of wicked music and community vibes. This year marks the festival's 47th anniversary, and with headlining acts like the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Paul McCartney, Major Lazer, and Lionel Richie, this is going to be one of Europe's best events of the year. June 10–12. www.pinkpop.nl

ASIA

CHINA HONG KONG

Every year on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, the **Dragon Boat Festival** takes place. The ancient tradition evolved from a simple boat race into one of the world's greatest parties. Enjoy boats, beers, and cheers from June 10–16 with hundreds of thousands of locals and spectators along Victoria Harbour. Indulge in local rice dumplings and realgar wine that is provided by vendors. Games and activities are organized aside

from the boat race such as the "egg stand" and the "hanging of mugwort and calamus," all meant to cleanse the spirit. A real glimpse into traditional Chinese holidays, the Dragon Boat Festival is a great way to partake in a Chinese cultural event. www.discoverhongkong.com

SHANGHAI

This year marks the 8th anniversary of **ShanghaiPRIDE**. Serving as China's only Pride festival, ShanghaiPRIDE makes sure to impress its attendees with exciting new themes and lineups year after year. This year's theme is "I Am Me," referring to the long struggle for LGBT acceptance. Along with ongoing panel discussions throughout the week there will be a Pride run, open-mic nights, a photo and art exhibition, trivia night, and a fabulous closing-night party. The organizers hope to reach out to the existing LGBT community and raise awareness to the general public about China's gay community. Held from June 17–26. www.shpride.com

INDIA MUMBAI

Founded in 2010, **Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival** has become the largest gay film festival in South Asia. The five-day festival is held at two venues and attracts close to 7,500 people, including Bollywood celebrities and notable filmmakers as well as critics and academics from India. Featuring panel discussions, book readings, and filmmaker interactions the festival is great for those interested in Indian culture and queer films. The theme for KASHISH 2016 is "7 Shades of Love," and will be held from May 25–29. www.mumbaiqueerfest.com

AUSTRALIA/OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA SYDNEY

More than just a visual beauty, **Vivid Sydney** is one of the city's most extravagant festivals with over 500,000 people attending. Living up to its name as a festival that specializes in light installations it also plays host to different musical performances and titillating discussions. One of its central aims is to spark creative collaborations and intelligent conversation. For the event, Sydney's biggest landmarks and buildings (including the Opera House) are decked out in cutting edge and beautiful light decoration technology. From May 27–June 18. www.vividsydney.com

NEW ZEALAND AUCKLAND

Held at The Cloud on Auckland's beautiful waterfront, the **Auckland Air Fair** is due to take place this year from May 26–29. A wonderful way to discover the inspiring work of leading and emerging artists from all over New Zealand, Australia, and Oceania. Known as New Zealand's premier con-

beatfacts

Couples who travel together have reported increased feelings of intimacy.