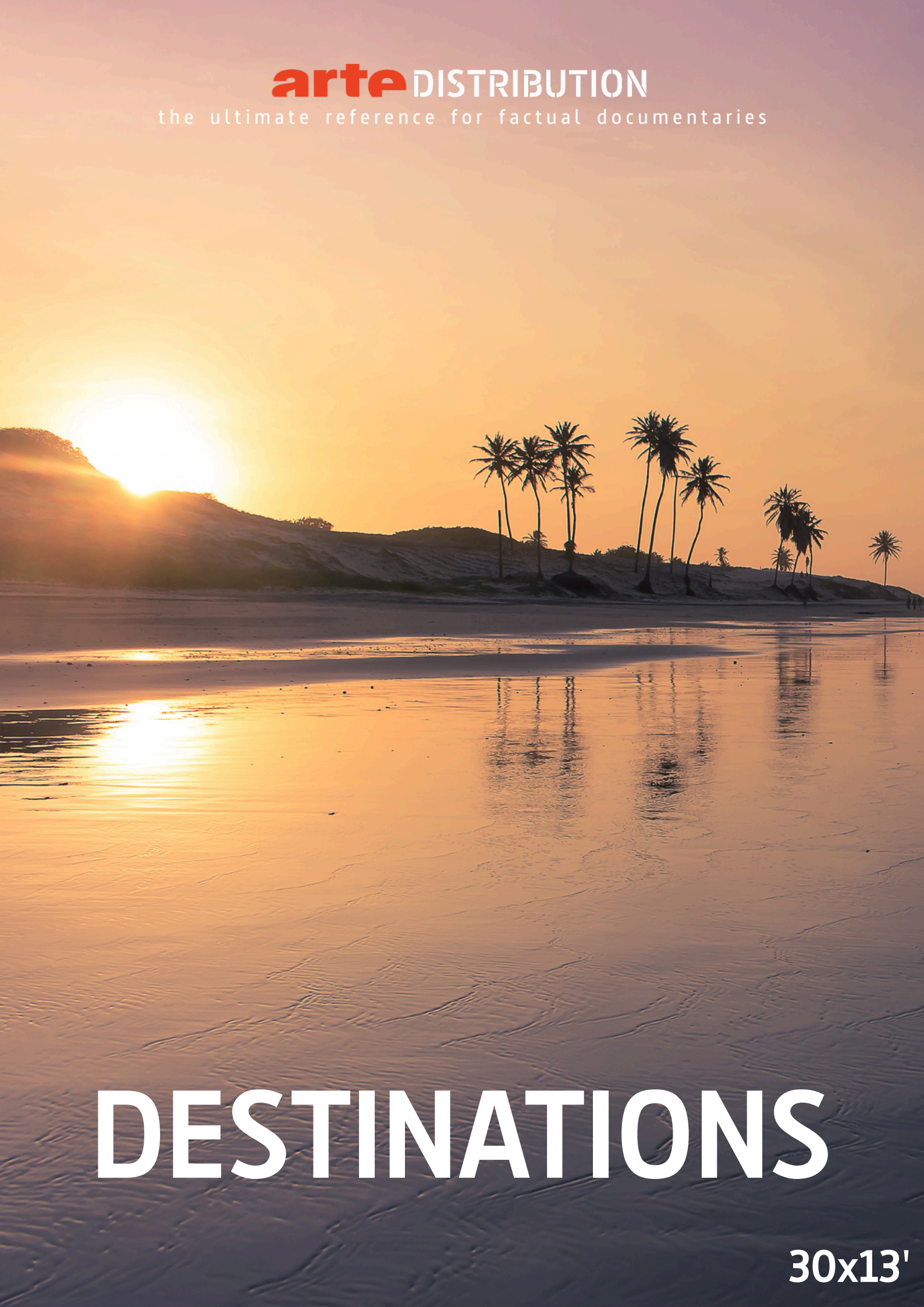


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A full-page background image showing a sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the left, casting a bright orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the wet sand. Several palm trees are silhouetted against the sky on the right, with their reflections visible in the shallow water on the beach.

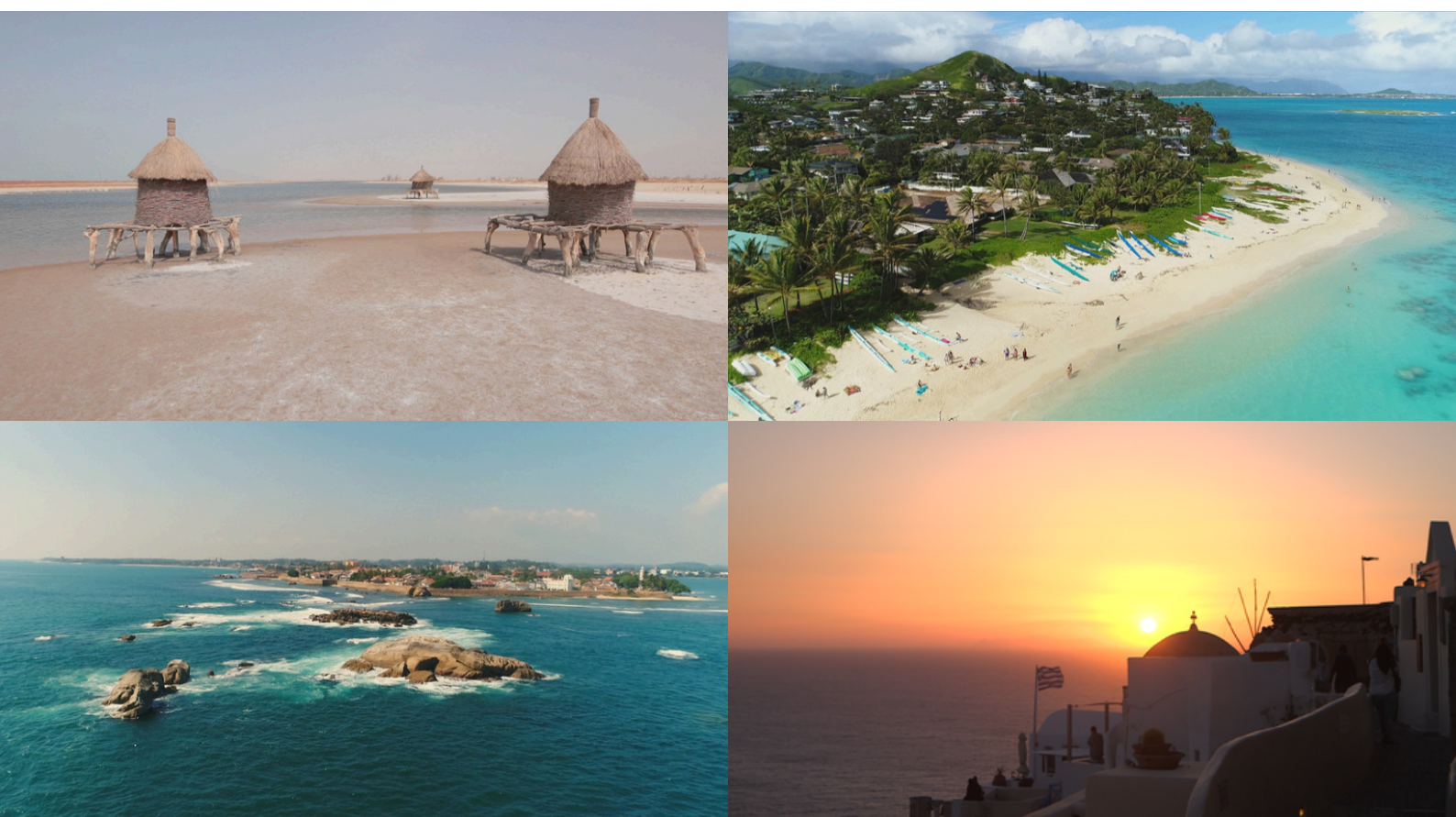
DESTINATIONS

30x13'



Far from the frenzy of urban life, **DESTINATIONS** is an invitation to enjoy the simple pleasure of traveling around the world to discover places that inspired the great artists, resulting in an exchange between a land, a town, a landscape and a work of art.

The Provence of Cézanne, the Brazil of Stefan Zweig, the Kenya of Karen Blixen, the Catalonia of Salvador Dali, or the Japan of Katsushika Hokusai.... The series will also take in places fashioned by mankind which have become legendary in their own right, such as Jerusalem, Harar in Ethiopia, the hanging gardens of Singapore, and the iconic Route 66. **DESTINATIONS** tells how these places have evolved through history, and which cultures shaped their character, their monuments, their music and their gastronomy. In 13 minutes, these films combine learning with the pleasure of delightful images and unusual encounters with local figures and artistic sensibilities. This is an invitation on a slow voyage, to satisfy an urge for adventure, with some enlightening stopovers to fire the curiosity, inspiring one to pack one's bags and immerse oneself in the experience.





Bergensbanen, The Train of Unity

It is a one-of-a-kind journey, that takes us through the pre-Arctic haze and the misty taiga. A mineral transhumance, skimming the fjords yet firmly rooted on land. It is a story of conquest. The Bergensbanen, which follows the path of water, is seen by Norwegians as the backbone of their nation. It allowed the country to unite its major cities from within. A train built to connect, build, and shape a fledgling state. A train built to move mountains.



Los Angeles, John Fante's Hunger for Success

In 1929, at the age of 20, writer John Fante left his native Colorado and came to California. As the United States went through the Great Depression, John Fante settled in Los Angeles. With only a few dollars in his pockets but a heart full of hope, the young artist created a literary alter ego, whom he placed at the center of dark, unflinching stories. These semi-autobiographical works offer a powerful portrait of life in the poor neighborhoods of Los Angeles.



Ara Güler, The Magnificent Eye of Istanbul

From the ruins of an ancient city lying just beneath the surface—which were discovered randomly—to photographs that strive to express the universal spirit of his homeland, Ara Güler captured the soul of Turkey through his lens and built its legend. Though he came from a fairly bourgeois background, this master of the Leica chose to immortalize the forgotten working class and the fading grandeur of a once-imperial city, rather than a triumphant Istanbul marching toward modernity...



Svalbard: Fridtjof Nansen, A Norwegian Hero

In his eyes, one could almost glimpse the hostility of the ice. His features are drawn, worn by polar winds. Explorer Fridtjof Nansen did not just brave the Far North and its arctic phantoms—he became the face of Norway. At the end of the 19th century, when the kingdom still belonged to powerful Sweden, this explorer set out to conquer the North Pole and became the first true hero of a nation seeking independence.



Rennes, Welcome to Mosaic City!

Who had the thought of brightening up Rennes with these multicolored candy-cane mosaics and bring light to this granite landscape? An Italian immigrant family did. The Odoricos. In the late 19th century, they brought the Mediterranean art of mosaic to what was then a remote region of France. These decorations did not just beautify the capital of Brittany—they accompanied its modernization, became part of the city's daily life, appeared in post offices, swimming pools, private homes, and helped forge its identity... unmistakably Breton.



Azulejos, Once Upon a Time... in Portugal

It is a Portuguese monument that fits in the palm of your hand—broken, shaped, and painted to create landscapes: the azulejo. Whether geometric or figurative, naïve or intricate, these tiles adorn Portugal from top to bottom and have long captured the souls of its people. True symbols of Portugal, they are nonetheless the result of diverse influences, and their origins remain a mystery.



Shelters and Souls of the Alps

It is the experience of a lifetime: climbing Mont Blanc. As much a dream as a physical feat. Tiny against the vastness of the mountain, humans have had to build refugees that would help them reach the summit. From the first ascent of Mont Blanc to today's tourist routes, these high-altitude refuges stand as essential waypoints, making the dream of ascent possible.



Armenia, A Russian Poet In Exile

Armenia presented Ossip Mandelstam with the prospect of a new world. Among the most sensitive and talented poets of the generation that saw the dislocation of the USSR, Mandelstam retreated to Armenia, away from Moscow's watchful eye. Driven by a desire for freedom, he endeavored to evade the upheavals of Soviet modernity. Deeply captivated by the country's landscapes and millennia-old culture, the book he dedicated to Armenia was one of his last.



South Africa's Botanical Wonders

South Africa is renowned for its wildlife, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant cultural tapestry. Yet it also shelters a hidden gem: the Cape Floral Kingdom. Nestled entirely within the southwestern tip of the country, it is the smallest of the six floral kingdoms on the planet. This extraordinary natural treasure, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is home to the world's greatest concentration of plant species, making it a botanical wonder unlike any other.



South Africa's Karoo by Louis Botha

The Karoo is to South Africa what Texas, Arizona, or New Mexico are to the United States: a rugged, arid hinterland. Covering an area that is larger than Germany, the Great Karoo stretches across the heart of the country. Louis Botha, one of South Africa's most sensitive photographers, has made this 'motherland' his sole subject. In each of his photos, he strives to capture the soul of this enchanting region. Bathed in suspended light, the Karoo holds no secrets for him.



Mustard... Dijon mustard, obviously

In Dijon, gastronomy takes center stage beneath sumptuous market halls. Visitors come here to stock up on regional specialties and witness expert craftsmanship... with a spicy twist. Crushed in the style of the great mustard masters of Burgundy, the tiny mustard seed—called *sénévé*—is turned into a smooth paste with a vibrant color. So much so that this boldly flavored condiment has even become the city's emblem.



Yodel, Switzerland's Cry of Joy

It is a cry of joy, the one that the Swiss shepherds utter to celebrate their return to the valley after four months of solitude in the pastures. In Switzerland, where every valley has its own language and every canton has its own laws, everyone, from people who live in the high alpine peaks to the people who live in the big cities, they are all bound together by this emotional outburst. Far from being outdated, yodel is more relevant than ever and every year many young people start to claim it as their own.



William the Conqueror: Normandy's Hero

In the green lands of the Calvados region, the people of Normandy gather every year to relive history. Some reenactors gather to bring back to life the Battle of Hastings - a legendary battle that took place on October 14, 1066, when William the Conqueror led Normandy's forces to victory in England. This triumph reshaped both the towns and countryside of Normandy.



Portugal: The Rice Laborers

In Portugal, during harvest season in the golden rice fields of Alentejo, it is the memory of people that arises from the soil... From the 20th century onward, these rice laborers, trapped in an almost feudal system come to this inhospitable land to sow and harvest these precious grains. By the sheer strength of their labor, the fertile plains of the Sado estuary were turned into the nation's first rice fields and are now preserved as a remarkable natural reserve.



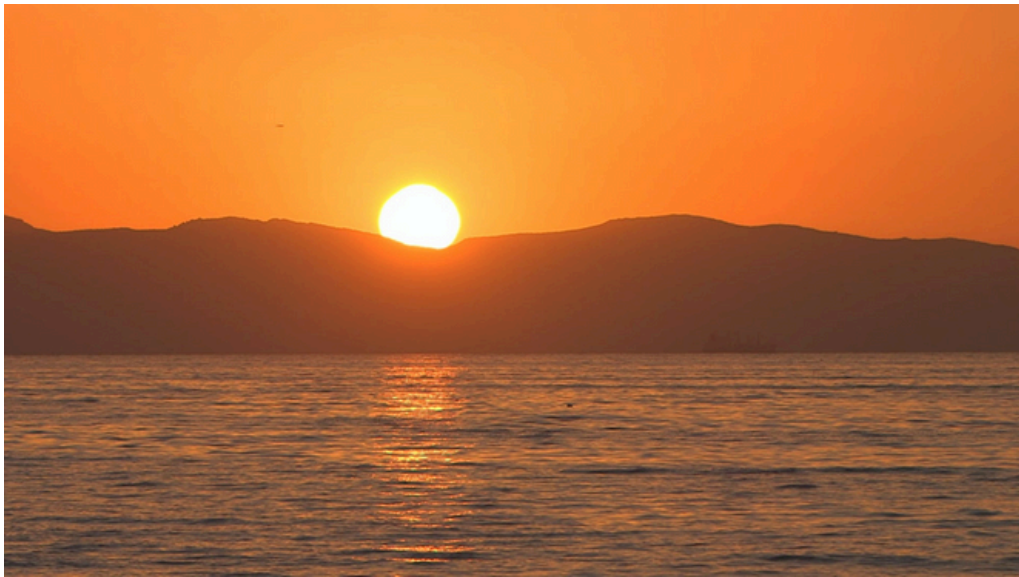
In Ardèche the Chestnut is Enjoyed by Everyone

When peeled, cooked, and sold in luxury boutiques, it's known as cultivated chestnut; fresh on the tree, it's simply wild chestnut. Reflecting the rugged beauty of Ardèche, its native region, the chestnut has long been the food of survival for the poor—earning its nickname, 'bread tree.' From historic peasants to modern-day homesteaders, these trees have saved countless lives in Ardèche, and their bounty continues to delight both humans and animals alike.



In Manipur, Women Rule Over the Loktak Lake

Located in northeastern India, Manipur is a region that is so remote it might feel like a world apart. At its heart lies Loktak Lake, a 250 square meters long stretch of land. Surrounded by China to the north, India to the west and Myanmar to the east, its population learned how to live with the constant threat of foreign invasion. For hundreds of years, women have stood at the frontlines of this unique society to protect it from outside threats.



Tunisia: The Rise and Fall of Carthage

In Tunis, on the Byrsa Hill, amid the silent ruins of Carthage, lies one of the most legendary rivalries in history. In 16 BCE, thanks to its prime location, the African city reigned over the Mediterranean world. To the point where it turned into Rome's most feared rival. A commercial, cultural and military power which, despite Rome's best efforts to obliterate it from, Carthage's legacy endures in the memory of every Tunisian.



Tunisia: The Birth of Salammbô

When Gustave Flaubert arrived in Tunisia in April 1858, he already knew what his next novel was going to be about since he had been thinking about it for over a year. Caught up in the Madame Bovary trial, he embarked on a journey searching for something sensual and violently lyrical. Inspired by the ruins of Carthage and its empire, he created a legendary heroine called Salammbô.



Extremadura, Welcome to Chili Land!

Although pimentón de la Vera comes from a small valley in Extremadura, it is the must-have ingredient in Spanish cuisine. Without it, there would not be any chorizo, nor would there be paella. Contrary to what one might expect, this premium product requires tremendous skill and labor. Here, pimentón de la Vera is a serious business, one that, over the years, helped the region reinvent itself and brought people together.



Páez Vilaró, Uruguay's Art Icon

Carlos Páez Vilaró, a painter and sculptor who also explored the worlds of filmmaking and music, broke the codes of Uruguayan art. A prolific and uncategorizable artist, he was one of the first to celebrate and honor the Black community back in 1940s and to promote an art that's for everyone. His groundbreaking contributions turned him into an icon of Uruguayan art.



Uruguay's Shores: When Luxury Rhymes with Nature

It is a strip of sand stretching as far as the eye can see along the warm waters of the South Seas... On one of these beaches lies José Ignacio, a seaside resort as discreet as it is famous among wealthy. It is the must-go destination in this part of coastal Uruguay. With its natural and preserved beaches, this small country has attracted many Brazilian and Argentinian tourists seeking for discretion and security. A strategy the country has carefully developed in order to turn its coastline into a haven of peace amid an often-restless continent.



Svalbard: Surviving in the White Desert

It's an untouched land, covered in white ice where polar bears live alongside a handful of humans. Because this archipelago, located in the Arctic Ocean, is the traditional realm of hunters. Trappers' cabins are the only relics of these ancient times where whales, bears and Arctic foxes were hunted for their skin and fur. Ironically, these are species trappers later helped protect. Trapping is not just a source of income, in this white desert, it's a culture, a lifestyle.



The Women Guardians of Florida

Florida would not be Florida without its green forests, its soft sandy beaches and its swamps teeming with crocodiles. Or at least it would not be the same. This extraordinary biodiversity is still alive thanks to all the work the women have been doing to protect it. Entire generations of activists fought tooth and nail against environmental destruction and became the guardians of Florida.



Japan: The Call of the Taiko

It all starts with a long silence... A deep wave that turns into musical chaos. The Japanese drum, called taiko, is the most iconic instrument in Japan. It sets the rhythm for every festival in the country. These festivals are known as matsuri and set the rhythm of life across the archipelago. However, for centuries, the taiko was not used for festivals, it was used to communicate with the gods. Then, little by little, it was brought onto the battlefields to help the samurai warriors. A martial drum that both played a role in the conflicts that tore the archipelago apart and in the country's political unity...



Kentucky: Retracing Daniel Boone's Legacy

Set against the Appalachian Mountains, Kentucky is a wooded region that has kept a wild soul. Gateway to the American West, this state is also known as the land of bluegrass and has remained rural and proud of its traditions. A man is forever associated with this land: Daniel Boone. Hunter, adventurer, explorer, he was the one who opened the West to the settlers. A popular icon, as famous as Davy Crockett or Buffalo Bill, Boone is the perfect embodiment of a typical American myth: the frontiersman, free in the infinity of untouched nature.



The Bijagos Archipelago: Where Women Rule

Almost every morning, Néné Kané and Sabado head away from all the hustle and bustle of the community on their motorcycle taxi. Where they live, they are treated like queens...and rightly so. The Bijagos Archipelago, one of the most isolated places in Africa, off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, is the kingdom of women. On this myriad of nearly 90 islands, the locals preserve a society that is unique in Africa: here, women dominate spiritual, economic and family life.



Chart Korbjitti, Exploring Buddhist Life In Thailand

Chart Korbjitti, who lives in the Thai jungle, is one of the greatest writers of his country. When he turned 27 in 1981, he published his first novel called *The Judgement*, which turned him into the leading figure of the new Thai literature. For this novel, he was awarded the South East Asian Writers Award, the Thai version of the Goncourt Prize. The book tells the story of a young poor man working as a temple caretaker in rural Thailand who eventually becomes the target of cruel rumors.



Ngaio Marsh, New Zealand's Queen of Crime

An island at the edge of the world, remote and wild. It was this primal nature that kept New Zealand's "Queen of Crime" Ngaio Marsh in her homeland. Because back then, the leading country in terms of crime novels was England and Marsh's biggest rival was Agatha Christie. Ngaio Marsh, however, was the first writer whose novels sold in over a million copies. Through her main character Detective Alleyn, Ngaio Marsh takes a satirical look at New Zealand society of her time and questions colonial identity.



If Armenia Were a Fruit, It Would Definitely Be an Apricot

In this folk song from the Armenian countryside, villagers sing to the apricot tree. For thousands of years, this tree has been growing on this harsh, rocky land. The apricot tree is the symbol of life thriving amidst the rocky terrain and of a people resisting every trial that has been thrown at them. Both the tree and the fruit symbolize the strength of a martyr nation, one surrounded by hostile neighbors who never stopped trying to invade it.



Patmos, The Island Of The Apocalypse

Far to the north of the Dodecanese complex, off the coast of Greece lies Patmos, also known as the “Jerusalem of the Aegean”. According to Christian tradition, it was where Apostle John wrote The Book of Revelation, also known as “The Apocalypse”. This final book of the New Testament describes how, at the end of time, Jesus will return to Earth to judge humanity and bring about the victory of good over evil. As a series of magnificent scenes that have inspired top artists for hundreds of years, “The Apocalypse” is a highly symbolic and esoteric text that remains open to multiple layers of interpretation.

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