

The 45 Places to Go in 2012

From the NEW YORK TIMES, January 6, 2012



- 1. Panama**
- 2. Helsinki, Finland**
- 3. Myanmar**
- 4. London**
- 5. Oakland, Calif.**

New restaurants and bars beckon amid the grit.

Tensions have cooled since violence erupted at the recent Occupy Oakland protests, but the city's revitalized night-life scene has continued to smolder.

The historic Fox Theater reopened in 2009 and quickly cemented its status as one of the Bay Area's top [music venues](#), drawing acts like Wilco and the Decemberists. Meanwhile, the city's [ever more sophisticated restaurants](#) are now being joined by upscale cocktail bars, turning once-gritty Oakland into an increasingly appealing place to be after dark. James Syhabout, the chef who earned Oakland its first (and only) Michelin star two years ago at Commis, followed up in May with the instant-hit [Hawker Fare](#), a casual spot serving Asian street food. Big-name [San Francisco](#) chefs are now joining him. Daniel Patterson (of two-Michelin-star Coi) opened the restaurant [Plum](#) in late 2010 and an adjacent cocktail bar later, and another restaurant, called [Haven](#), in the recently renovated Jack London Square last month. *INGRID K. WILLIAMS*

- 6. Tokyo**
- 7. Tanzania**
- 8. Chilean Patagonia**
- 9. Lhasa, Tibet**
- 10. Havana, Cuba**