When it comes to celebrating a special occasion, time and place are key factors to its success. So as the new year begins, it’s the perfect time to plan something truly out of this world this year. Whether it’s a special birthday, anniversary, honeymoon, babymoon, reunion or recovery, embarking on a journey with your favorite people is a way to celebrate life, find clarity and create memories. Here are inspiring places and exciting journeys to celebrate and honor the landmarks of life.

Nothing circumvents the weight of a silvery milestone birthday than marking the occasion with a daring trip to the edge of the earth: Patagonia. Torres del Paine National Park is a magnificent region of southern Chile where glaciers creep through valleys of the granite peaks of the Andes Mountains, and delicate species of orchids carve out their survival alongside parakeets, flamingos and gauchos—the area’s indigenous cowboys. Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa is a modernist ecolodge built within the park. Daily excursions led by expert guides explore the awe-inspiring landscape on foot and horseback, allowing guests to experience and interact with this unique environment. After spending the day absorbing the views, watching the wildlife and gaining a perspective on the vast landscape, abscond to the Uma Spa and gather at communal tables to share Chilean wine with new friends. tierrapatagonia.com

Gathering generations together in a place that satisfies everyone from grandfather to toddler usually involves compromise—but the dreamy Inn at Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, South Carolina, will please all. Just 40 minutes north of historic Savannah, Georgia, the 20,000-acre Palmetto Bluff property encompasses preserved wetlands and forest along the May River and features 200 homes with staff can arrange boat rides, excursions to nearby islands and private dinners featuring warm Southern comfort food—all under the willow trees draped with Spanish moss. palmettobluffresort.com

Celebrate an anniversary at Ireland’s Ballyfin, a fully restored 16th-century estate on rolling green hills less than an hour from Dublin. The once-crumbling structure has been revived by a loving Chicago couple, who have filled the estate with works of Irish art from the mid-17th century to today, along with family portraits from residents throughout the generations. Guests can tour the historic property to learn about the renovation, art collection and astounding display of decorative arts. Picnics and horseback riding take place on the expansive grounds, and the home is full of cozy nooks with fireplaces that invite guests to curl up with a book. And with a costume department outfitted by a recent wardrobe acquisition from the Lyric Opera of Chicago, guests can don period attire for dinner and photographs before retreating to their opulent bedchambers. Ballyfin is an experience, a perfect place for a memorable anniversary weekend of old-world elegance. ballyfin.com

Well-traveled parents who still think fondly about their days backpacking through Europe as they check into their more comfortable accommodations will delight in the opportunity to share some adventure with their children. Nestled in the Golden Triangle, where the rice paddies of Northern Thailand meet those of Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar, sits the Four Seasons Tented Camp, with 15 open-air tents and an elephant rehabilitation retreat on-property. Kids ages 12 and older are welcome and can spend their days interacting with the elephants and their babies, cruising up the Mekong river to visit indigenous tribal villages and exploring

**FOUR SEASONS TENTED CAMP** is located in the Golden Triangle where Northern Thailand meets Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.