

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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# The New York Times

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023

NATIONAL EDITION  
Severe thunderstorms are expected  
in the High Plains. Rain will spread  
across the Mid-Atlantic states with  
rough surf and rip currents along  
the coast. Weather map, Page 30.  
Prints in Canada may be higher \$6.00

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SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE



EDITORS' NOTE: THIS SECTION SHOULD NOT BE READ

For Kids

## EVERYBODY IN!

### AROUND THE WORLD, BATH TIME IS HANG TIME

BY HELEN I. HWANG



Bathers at a hot spring in southeastern Turkey. Public spaces where people can come together for a good soak are found in many cultures.

**IN AMERICA**, when people say the word "bath" it usually means water, soap and maybe a rubber ducky. But in some countries, a bath is a spa-like place where people go to relax, chat, snack, sweat — or all of the above. (Think hot-tubbing, but better.) There are places like these all over the United States too. Some have age restrictions, but many welcome kids and their families to experience bathing cultures from around the world.

**ONSEN (JAPAN)**  
In Japanese tradition, taking a bath is about soaking, not washing. At public

bathhouses and natural pools of hot spring water called onsen, people must shower before getting in. Then families and friends hang out in big, deep tubs together. It's natural to sit in the water and talk, says Hirokazu Kosaka, from the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Los Angeles.

**BANYA (RUSSIA)**  
In hot, humid steam rooms at banyas, or bathhouses, some people wear nothing but a felt hat. (It protects the head and hair from the heat.) They may also be seen being smacked with a

bundle of birch leaves called a venik — which is supposed to be good for your skin and the muscles underneath — or plunging in a freezing cold pool. Sounds awful, feels awesome.

**JJIMJILBANG (KOREA)**  
At a Korean jjimjilbang there are many warm, hot and really hot rooms to explore. The rooms contain different materials, like salt, clay or colorful crystals, which some believe act as natural medicine, says Jean Lee of Virginia's Spa World. Everybody is given a uniform of a T-shirt and shorts, so they

don't sweat in their clothes. People visit one room after another, hit the snack bar, play board games or nap.

**HAMMAM (TURKEY)**  
In a steamy room at a Turkish hammam there is a large marble table, big enough to fit several people at once. (Usually men and women are in separate rooms.) They lie on the warm marble while an attendant lathers them up in foamy suds, massages them with a scratchy glove to remove dead skin and rinses them off with scoops of water. Warning: The last scoop is freezing. ♦

wander through the Spider Pavilion, where hundreds of arachnids — like the golden silk orb weaver, whose webs can be as tall as a kid (or taller!) — are literally just hanging out.

**MEET HALF A MILLION ANTS**  
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NEW YORK CITY

Get this: Leafcutter ants started "farming" about 10 million years before humans did. They cut up leaves and feed them to fungus that they grow in little gardens for food. At the museum's new Gilder Center, watch a humongous collection of leafcutters toil the day away in a giant, see-through ant farm.

**SEND YOUR HEART AFLUTTER**  
BUTTERFLY WONDERLAND, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

There are close to 3,000 butterflies from around the world here, emerging from chrysalises or flitting around a giant glass space. Stay still, and one might land on you for a butterfly kiss. Visit the insect vending machine to snack on chocolate-covered ants, cricket-flour chips and scorpion lollipops. ♦



TINY STORY

# 650,000

The approximate number of Legos an artist used to recreate a famous painting of water lilies by Claude Monet. The artwork is 50 feet wide and takes up a whole wall at the Design Museum in London.

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