

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

The 50 Best Places to Travel in 2019



Ask the Travel + Leisure staff where we want to travel in 2019, and most of us will answer, honestly, where don't we?

When it comes to compiling our annual year-end list of the places we're most excited about in the coming months, narrowing down the field is easier said than done. We pore over press releases, tourism statistics, and our overflowing spreadsheets of hotel openings, restaurant debuts, and new flight routes. We consider the anecdotal evidence: Where are our friends and families going? What destinations are we seeing on Instagram? Which places seem to be part of today's travel zeitgeist? And, as always, we turn to our network of travel experts — trusted writers, hospitality professionals, the travel advisors that make up T+L's A-List — to see where people are actually going, and which places are the ones to watch in the coming year.

This year's list spans the globe, from exciting southern hemisphere cities like Santiago, Chile, and Brisbane, Australia, to harder-to-reach regions like Langkawi, Malaysia and the Danish Riviera. There are the new capitals of culture — Nairobi, Kenya, home to a emergent design scene, or Panama City, with a deluge of forward-thinking restaurants and bars — and the tourism destinations that are back in fighting form after natural disasters or human conflict, including Puerto Rico, the Turquoise Coast of Turkey, Egypt, and Montecito, California. And, of course, there are the destinations that we haven't heard much about, but certainly will soon — places like India's remote Andaman Islands, or the art and history-filled emirate of Sharjah, in the U.A.E., or the under-the-radar wine scene in Etyek, Hungary.

After all, isn't dreaming about places totally new to us — and seeing old favorites in a new light — why we travel in the first place?

Here are Travel + Leisure's 50 best places to travel in 2019. If you already know where you're going in the year ahead, share your travel destination picks with us on social media with #TLBestPlaces.



Los Cabos, Mexico

Los Cabos has a reputation as a place full of wealthy Angelenos and college kids, less a Mexican destination than an Americanized resort getaway. And in parts of Cabo San Lucas, the party rages on. But new hotels are setting themselves apart with upscale amenities, a deeper appreciation of local culture, and unexpected locations. In May, Viceroy relaunched a design darling: Mar Adentro, built in 2015, was famous for its striking white buildings and central bar, a nestlike ovoid structure. Viceroy overhauled the dining and interiors, but kept those beloved elements intact. Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort opened its doors in September, all clean lines and high drama, with Danish-meets-Mexican furnishings. Chief among the 2018 additions is the 122-room Montage, which curves around secluded Santa Maria Bay and has a 40,000-square-foot spa — the largest in Baja. Still more properties are coming in 2019: the 115-room Zadún, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, opens in March, followed by the 200-room Nobu Hotel Los Cabos and the 115-room 1 Hotel.

The next frontier is the East Cape along the Sea of Cortés, where a long-awaited Four Seasons will debut in mid 2019, with 145 rooms, four pools, five restaurants, and an on-site slip so you can dock your yacht and check right in; Amanvari will open within the same complex in 2020.

All these new hotels highlight what regular visitors have long known: if you look in the right places, Los Cabos has exactly what you're after. —Lila Harron Battis

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