



Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of Mary Most Holy, in Guadalajara, Jalisco. Emmanuel Flores/Getty Images

Trips

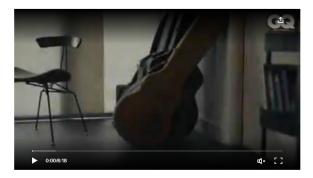
The best destinations in the world to visit in 2026

From tranquil coastal paradises to contemporary design cities, or new ways to travel far from your place of origin, you must know these destinations in 2026.

By Arati MenonandMegan Spurrell
Translated and adapted by Andrei Osornio

Compiling a list of the world's best destinations to visit in 2026 serves as a reminder of travel 's most beautiful paradox: that our planet can seem intimately small and incredibly vast at the same time. Overflowing with more wonders than one could see in a lifetime—yet increasingly interconnected—its offering of places to travel is endless. Therefore, creating this article has been not only a pleasure but also a challenge.

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Our selection of the world's top destinations to visit in 2026 is based precisely on that sense of scale and grandeur. There are places that are already familiar yet are being revitalized, such as Hong Kong, with its exciting new cultural center, and the 16th-century lake city of Udaipur, where the opening of a string of luxury hotels is ushering in a new era. There are also hidden gems coming to the forefront, such as Prince Edward County in Canada, where a wave of independent wineries, new restaurants, and boutique hotels is redefining coastal getaways, and Fez., Marrakech's understated sister, poised to shine with the historic reopening of its medina after a remarkable 15-year restoration.

annual list, we're just as surprised as you are when we stumble upon something totally unexpected. In Bolivia, the vast expanses of shimmering salt flats have long been a major draw, but if you broaden your perspective of the ${\bf Potos\'i}$ region , you'll find a geological wealth of lagoons, hot springs, and snow-capped volcanoes. And if Rwanda 's primates have captured your imagination, how about Gabon, where new eco-lodges are opening access to pristine forests that are home to western lowland gorillas and sprawling savannas? But perhaps few places on earth evoke the vastness of life quite like Uluru, the enormous sandstone monolith that rises from the heart of the Australian Outback. As the region celebrates the 40th anniversary of a landmark restitution program, a new chapter of purposeful tourism is unfolding. In 2026, visitors, guided by Anangu storytellers, will be able to walk a 53-kilometer trail and spend the night in luxurious glamping camps , where the desert sky unfolds like an ancient manuscript, perfect for reflecting on our place in the history of the constantly evolving universe.

This text is for both travelers and dreamers. Use it, along with our list from last year of the best places in the world to visit in 2025 , to kick-start your travel plans or simply to unleash your sense of curiosity.

Arusha, Tanzania

The best part: The opening of an iconic city landmark and a new safari camp in the jungle.

Rumors about the new museum dedicated to the late primatologist Jane Goodall in Arusha have circulated for months, and now they've finally been confirmed. Dr. Jane's Dream: The Goodall Centre for Hope will open in late October 2026, next to the Arusha Cultural Heritage Centre in the city center. Created by a team of designers that includes a Disney's Animal Kingdom alumnus, the space will feature six interactive exhibit areas, including a theater and a Garden of Commitment, focused on conservation education for future generations.

Although the city recently garnered media attention due to the 2025 election demonstrations, Arusha is also buzzing with activity thanks to local entrepreneurs, from the Afro-minimalist Makao Collective, which creates gorgeous handmade furniture and home decor, to Opuk Lounge, which prepares delicious picnic lunches for conservation-focused safari excursions with The Wild Source. Sports fans, take note: the 30,000-capacity Samia Suluhu Hassan football stadium, located in the Olomoti region of Arusha, is set to open in the summer of 2026, ready to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations final .

Beyond the city, the much-anticipated Koroi Forest Camp , operated by a communityfocused tour operator, opened this summer in Arusha National Park . This eight- chalet property in the Momella Forest, on the lower slopes of Mount Meru, offers a distinct alternative to the classic wildlife viewing on the Tanzanian plains; instead, here you can see elephants, shy duikers, and the black-and-white colobus monkeys for which the camp is named. Another new addition to the safari scene is Laba Mama Simba , which opened this spring on the 700-hectare North Dolly Wildlife Estate.

East Coast, Barbados



Now there are even more ways to access this surfer's paradise. Shutterstock

The best thing: A new (virgin) facet of island life, and more accessible than ever.

With new direct flight routes and luxury cruise itineraries, the easternmost island in the Caribbean will be more accessible than ever by 2026. Delta and KLM recently launched nonstop routes from their hubs in Atlanta and Amsterdam, respectively, and the Port of Bridgetown completed a \$2 million renovation in 2023. The island is also developing the Port of Speightstown at the northern tip, which now offers new berths for smaller luxury vessels, such as Emerald Cruises' Emerald Sakara, which will call here on several itineraries during the 2026 winter season.

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escape the crowds if you wish. While Barbados' most popular luxury resorts are located along the tranquil western Caribbean coast, adventurous travelers can drive just half an hour northeast from Grantley Adams International Airport or the busy cruise ports of Bridgetown to reach the island's more rugged Atlantic coast, where dramatic scenery, world-class surfing, and colorful fishing villages preserve the island's unspoiled character. Start in Bathsheba, where powerful waves have long drawn surfers to the Soup Bowl, a reef revered by international professionals. There are also plenty of outdoor activities for non-surfers, with a national park and nature reserve protecting most of the east coast from commercial development. Hike from Bath Beach to Bathsheba along a scenic nine-plus-kilometer trail that follows the route of the island's old coastal railway. Then, end the day in the nearby town of Martin's Bay on Thursdays, when the Bay Tavern Fish Fry brings together locals and visitors alike to enjoy freshly caught red snapper, baked mac and cheese, and rum-fueled karnoke sessions.

Previously, most accommodations on the east coast consisted of family-run inns and beachfront cottages. This September, hotelier Paul Doyle, owner of the island's oldest hotel, The Crane Resort, completed the three-year construction of a new all-villa property called East Resort, offering exclusive and cozy accommodations in what is known as "Barbados' best-kept secret."

Brussels, Belgium

The best part: Creative inspiration and cultural renaissance.

This often-overlooked European capital is experiencing a cultural moment, marking its transition from a bureaucratic hub to a creative powerhouse. The opening of the Kanal-Centre Pompidou in November 2026 will transform a long-abandoned factory into a contemporary center for modern art. One of Europe's most anticipated openings, it will feature extensive exhibition spaces curated by the Centre Pompidou in Paris, as well as a dynamic program of live performances , music, film, workshops, a library, and, on the fifth floor, a restaurant overlooking the expansive exhibition hall, topped by a rooftop bar with panoramic views. Just steps away is the newly opened The Standard , with its rooftop bar, conservatory-style lounge, and bold design that reflects the city's creative energy.

Brussels' cultural renaissance is visible everywhere, from the refreshed facades of the Place de la Bourse to the Dome Project, a modern restoration of Belgium's first department store. Nearby, the Gare Maritime, a former freight station, seamlessly blends sustainable architecture with design fairs and chef-run food stalls. Plan a visit in spring, when Art Brussels draws galleries and collectors from around the world for a vibrant international fair, and the biannual Zinneke Parade transforms the city streets into a stage of theater and imagination. For more adrenaline, stay in the city during the Belgian Grand Prix to marvel at the sporting spectacle.

Chiriquí Province, Panama

The best: The "castaway" style atmosphere, marine reserves, eco-friendly resorts.

The province of Chiriquí , located about 480 kilometers southwest of Panama City and bathed by the Pacific Ocean, has become a haven for nature lovers in the last decade. The area includes La Amistad International Park , a UNESCO World Heritage Site spanning over 400,000 hectares and the largest nature reserve in Central America , as well as the Gulf of Chiriquí National Marine Park , home to howler monkeys, armadillos, and, from July to October, migrating humpback whales. Luxury tourism company Black Tomato will expand its coverage in Chiriquí by 2026, offering diving in the marine park , naturalist-led rainforest excursions, and tailor-made whale watching trips , combined with lunch on a deserted island.

Hoteliers have also taken note and are gradually launching properties that capture the spirit of this getaway with top-notch amenities: Isla Palenque , part of The Cayuga Collection, a 10-room luxury eco-resort, will feature three two-bedroom villas in 2026 and 2027, all with funicular access and private plunge pools. In February 2025, Hyatt opened Hotel La Compañía del Valle , a 70-room art and wellness resort located just 20 miles (32 kilometers) off the coast, with the 1,672-square-foot Elysium Spa opening in the fall of 2025. By the end of 2026, travelers can look forward to the 186-room Viceroy Bocas del Toro , geared toward a luxury clientele that prefers a more traditional resort experience.

Getting to Chiriquí will also be easier. President José Raúl Mulino announced the upcoming construction of the Panama-David high-speed train, a 475-kilometer line that will connect Panama City with Chiriquí in less than three hours, eliminating the need for short flights or long car journeys once it is operational.

Deer Valley, Utah

The best part: A final Sundance Film Festival; twice the ski terrain.

For decades, Deer Valley has been synonymous with well-maintained runways, impeccable service, and the stellar energy of the Sundance Film Festival. In January 2026, that story will come to an end. After more than four decades in Park City, Sundance will hold its final year in Utah, culminating in what organizers call "a celebration filled with gratitude and joy" to honor founder Robert Redford and the cultural landmark this moment represents.

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in North American history. The Expanded Excellence initiative more than doubles the skiable terrain to 4,300 acres, with nearly 100 new runs and 31 lifts. This winter also brings seven new gondolas, including the East Village Express gondola, along with the continued development of East Village, which offers streamlined mountain access and more than 70 shops and restaurants.

Once completed, East Village will also feature eight hotels, including the Grand Hyatt Deer Valley, which opened in late 2024, the upcoming Canopy by Hilton —Hilton's first ski resort property, debuting in summer 2026—and, later, a Four Seasons resort and residences slated to open in 2028. Add to that the elegant Chute Eleven Champagne yurt, returning for its second year, and 762 centimeters of annual snowfall supported by a state-of-the-art snowmaking system, and Deer Valley is ready to show travelers what its next chapter will look like.

Before this trip to the snow, you can also check out our selection of the best places in North America and the Caribbean to visit in 2025.

Fez, Morocco



Bab Bou Jeloud (The Blue Gate) located in Fez, Morocco. Getty Images

The best part: A series of ambitious restoration projects that are breathing new life into the historic city.

Fez is the cultural capital and intellectual center of Morocco , yet it remains largely undiscovered. That is set to change in 2026 with the long-awaited reopening of the Palais Jamaï , Fez's iconic heritage hotel built in 1879 by a grand vizier of the sultan, following a decade-long renovation. A sister establishment to Marrakech's iconic La Mamounia, the Palais Jamaï is one of the few remaining century-old hotels in North Africa, preserving its opulent architectural style and an atmosphere steeped in history.

The lavish reopening is the crowning achievement of a decades-long renovation of the world's largest and most intact medieval medina , which has reinforced several thousand rammed-earth structures and restored many of the city's most important monuments. The first of these is the 9th-century Qarawiyyin Library , located in the world's oldest university, while Place Lalla Yeddouna , a riverside neighborhood rehabilitated by architects Michel Mossessian and Yassir Khalil, was shortlisted for the 2025 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Then there are the beautiful 14th- and 15th-century fonduks —trade houses—of Chemmaine, Sbitryine, and Barka, restored as magnificent artisan workshops focused on high-quality local production. Fonduk Kaat Smen will join them before the end of 2026, reopening its doors to a unique historic honey market. The Al Batha Museum of Islamic Art , currently Morocco's finest museum, also recently reopened quietly; it offers a well-curated overview of the country's dynastic history through the use of exquisite artifacts and illuminated manuscripts that place Fez within the context of a wide network of Mediterranean and African relationships.

These connections are evident at the Fez Festival of Sacred World Music , held annually in May and June, which celebrates Fez's role as a center of Sufi mysticism, Islamic scholarship, and Andalusian musical heritage. Also on the agenda for 2026: the city begins the year hosting matches of the Africa Cup of Nations and anticipates a near-total solar eclipse in August .

Gabon

The best: The pristine African rainforest meeting the sea; an immersive and active alternative to vehicle safaris; the wonder of isolation.

Gabon's tourism industry may still be in its infancy, but in 2026 it will become Africa's—
and possibly the world's—most exciting rainforest destination with the opening of Loango
Savannah Camp in January. Located on the iconic Iguela Lagoon, where forest elephants
splash about on their way to a coastline famous for Gabon's surfing hippos, this new tented

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camp is one of three properties situated in the northern part of Loango National Park. Dubbed "Africa's last Eden," Loango, a paradise of pristine forests, savannas, and lagoons that flow into the wild Atlantic, offers, among other wonders, what some experts consider Africa's best gorilla trekking experience.

If three *lodges* are too many, head south to Moukalaba-DouDou National Park, where Nyanga Lodge, opened in early 2025, enjoys pleasant seclusion as the only luxury safari property in what locals call the "national park of the great apes." Nyanga's offerings for 2026 include al fresco dining experiences, from a new treetop terrace to beachside dinners, ideal for spotting one of the park's many primate species or marine spectacles such as humpback whale migration and sea turtle nesting. With its surrounding waters also rich in game fish such as tarpon, Nyanga will also launch the first full season of its exclusive international catch-and-release sport fishing in 2026.

For those seeking an even wilder experience, the opening in early 2026 of Sette Cama Eco Camp, in the remote southern corner of Loango National Park, promises to be a gamechanger. This comfortable base camp, the first property in Machaba Safaris' Machaba Wild portfolio, will focus on immersive adventures over luxury. With activities such as jungle treks—for sightings of chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas, elephants, and red warthogs—longer coastal trails—the best way to see the same jungle creatures on the beach, as well as surfing hippos—and boat cruises and kayaking excursions—ideal for spotting dwarf crocodiles, incredible birds, and West Africa's shyest manatees—it's all about active participation in Gabon's extraordinary environments. Perhaps the ultimate and most intimate version of jungle immersion, Lowveld Trails Co. will launch its first full season of multi-night primitive hiking trails in mid- to late summer 2026, using Sette Cama Eco Camp as its starting point.

Although Gabon's wonders are unique and abundant, the tourism infrastructure remains rudimentary at best, and wildlife sightings aren't always easy. With Anderson Expeditions, a pioneer in conservation-oriented tourism in Gabon, resuming its customized itineraries in 2026, private guides will help guests explore primeval forests and pristine streams.

Now, if you're interested in the continent, you can first check out our guide to the best places in Africa to visit in 2025.

Upper Carniola (Gorenjska), Slovenia

The best: Fairytale villages and stunning lakes.

Nestled between Austria and northern Italy, Slovenia 's Upper Carniola region —also known as Gorenjska, meaning "highlands"—is a hidden gem in plain sight. About one-tenth the size of Tuscany, this northwestern corner boasts a stunning array of attractions: the Iulian Alps, Lake Bled, Triglay National Park, and a string of fairvtale villages.

While neighboring Italy prepares to welcome crowds for the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, the allure of Upper Carniola lies in its tranquility. But don't expect absolute silence: 2026 is shaping up to be a pivotal year. A new visa system for digital nomads is being implemented, perfectly coinciding with a wave of cultural and hotel reopenings—a sign that the country is ready for its moment of glory.

In the summer of 2026, Upper Carniola will become a destination for contemporary art lovers with the grand opening of Muzej Lah , showcasing over 800 European works carefully curated over three decades by Igor and Mojca Lah, on the picturesque slopes of Bled Castle. For wellness enthusiasts , the Kneipp NaturHotel Snovik , following a &22 million (&25.5 million) investment, will open in June 2026 on the outskirts of the region, becoming Slovenia's highest-altitude spa hotel. Wellness here is rooted in tradition—see Sebastian Kneipp's five pillars of holistic living—but with a contemporary twist.

Small, cozy hotels, reminiscent of guesthouses, are quietly flourishing in the Julian Alps, such as the five- suite Chalet Sofija, which combines warm hospitality, breathtaking views, and excellent cuisine. It's no surprise, then, that nine Slovenian restaurants earned Michelin stars in 2025. The regional restaurant Hi§a Franko retained its coveted three stars and the Green Star for sustainability, cementing Ana Ro§'s status as one of only two female chefs in the world with this distinction. Meanwhile, history buffs shouldn't miss the return of The Passion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to the cobblestone streets of Škofja Loka after a six-year hiatus, with 900 residents bringing to life one of Europe's oldest Baroque theatrical works.

Guadalajara, Mexico



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Metropolitan Cathedral of Guadalajara. Getty

Highlights: World-renowned festivals; FIFA World Cup matches; dynamic industries led by women.

As the epicenter of Mexican cultural traditions —mariachi, pottery, tortas ahogadas, and, of course, tequila— Guadalajara is poised to take center stage. In 2026, Mexico's third-largest city will also showcase its cultural achievements as the host of several world-class events.

The Guadalajara International Film Festival returns in April, the 2026 FIFA World Cup brings four matches in June, and November marks the 40th edition of the week-long Guadalajara International Book Fair . But it is the women of Guadalajara who are flourishing throughout "The City of Roses." The city's first female mayor, Verónica Delgadillo García , is a sign of progress, as are the gender-focused bike-sharing programs and the women-led mariachi and cumbia bands that entertain the public.

Guadalajara's artisanal heritage intertwines with art and gastronomy. At Cerámica Suro, a ceramics factory in Colón Industrial, you can paint your own piece with the help of Juliana Suro and her father, José Noé Suro, who organize a residency program with local artists and the sister art gallery Plataforma and its rotating resident artists.

This feminine spirit also influences modern gastronomy. At Xokol , in Santa Teresita, chef Xrysw Ruelas is a *storyteller* of ancestral Mexican ingredients and matriarchs. Juana Segundo Alcántar, grandmother of Xokol's chef Óscar Segundo—Ruelas's husband—is depicted in a realistic mural that dominates the communal dining tables, where diners are served freshly pressed tortillas with multicolored circles.

Matriarchal culture is also a family affair at well-known distilleries in Jalisco, such as La Alteña: 2026 marks Jenny Camarena's fîrst full year as CEO of El Tesoro de Don Felipe Tequila.

Although Guadalajara has long been a jewel destination, quietly evolving while neighboring cities receive more attention, now the spotlight shines a little brighter on it.

Route 66, United States

The best part: The 100th anniversary of the "Mother Highway".

The neon lights are shining a little brighter along Arizona's Route 66, the iconic American freeway stretching between Chicago and Santa Monica, as it celebrates its centennial in 2026. Although the adjacent freeway was closed in 1985, some sections were preserved for their historical significance. Along these, vintage motel and restaurant signs have been restored to their mid-century glory, including more than a dozen along the nearly 30-kilometer urban stretch—the longest in the country—in Albuquerque. In St. Robert, Missouri , long-abandoned signs have been polished and brought together in the newly opened Route 66 Neon Park . Celebrations are planned along the 3,940 kilometers of the route, from Springfield, Missouri, home of the Route 66 Centennial National Kick-Off in April, to Tulsa's Capital Cruise in May, a world record attempt for the largest classic car parade ever , and the 10-day Texas Route 66 Festival in Amarillo in June.

A trip along the "Mother Highway" evokes nostalgia for the past, but also prompts reflection on how America's history has been told. Historically, more than 25 tribal nations lived along the route, but for years their diverse cultures were largely represented through reductive stereotypes, with cement teepee storefronts and billboards adorned with Hollywood-style depictions of Indigenous peoples. Now, travelers can gain a more realistic perspective at Native-run institutions, such as the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026, and the First Americans Museum, which opened in Oklahoma City in 2021 to tell the stories of Oklahoma's 39 nations.

Other world destinations you should visit in 2026

Below, we suggest other places around the world that you should also include on your travel radar:

- Hong Kong . Visit it for: Its improved green spaces and panoramic views.
- · Margaret River, Australia . Visit it for: Visiting vineyards and food festivals.
- Medellín, Colombia . Visit it for: Its vibrant culinary scene, its endless nightlife, and its innovative urban planning.
- Minas Gerais, Brazil . Visit it for: Its modern art, its rich culinary traditions, and for being a booming city.
- Naoshima, Japan . Visit it for: The chance to go before the crowds arrive.
- Northern Chilean Patagonia . Visit it for: A historic rural lodging and wellness experiences in the "green Patagonia".

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- Northern Namibia . Visit for: Its new haute couture creations and an influx of rhinos.
- Oulu, Finland . Visit for: Arctic culture, art trails, and year-round cultural programming.
- Peloponnese, Greece . Visit it for: Film locations, Homeric history, and hiking trails.
- $\bullet \;\; \textbf{Potos\'i}, \textbf{Bolivia} \; . \; \text{Visit it for: Luxury experiences amidst otherworldly landscapes}.$
- Prince Edward County, Canada . Visit it for: Its new wine region with an old soul.
- Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi . Visit it for: Its world-class cultural institutions.
- • Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, France. Visit it for: Its sustainable train journeys and panoramic views of Haute-Savoie.
- Udaipur, India . Visit for: New luxury hotels and a sense of urban renewal.
- Uluru, Australia . Visit it for: Its spiritual connection, epic trekking, and a desert that lights up at nightfall.
- Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe . Visit them for: A large number of new hotels offering new viewpoints to enjoy the iconic falls and the African capital of adventure.

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