

IMPRESSIONS: 2,005,222

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

The 50 Best Places to Travel in 2021

When the time comes to travel again, these destinations — all right in your own backyard — are the ones to visit next.

December 18, 2020

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/best-places-to-travel-in-2021>

Even for the compulsive jetsetters among us, it's a simple truth that most travel stories are aspirational in the best of times. There are too many incredible places to see, not enough vacation days, and sometimes we all have to content ourselves with scrawling another spot on the bucket list and hoping the stars align.

But this year, as we all sat at home and watched the world come to a halt, “aspirational” took on new meaning. When restrictions relaxed this [summer](#), the familiar wanderlust crept back in. With even the most straightforward international getaways ruled out, and many travelers still hesitant to hop on a plane, even simple trips — [scenic drives](#), [camping weekends](#), [staycations](#) across town — suddenly felt novel and luxurious.

With the [first vaccines now rolling out](#), it seems the end of our long international nightmare is finally (finally!) in sight. In anticipation of that moment, we've once again compiled our annual list of the best places to travel in the coming year — with one twist. In honor of our revived appreciation for the discoveries to be made in our own backyards, this year's list features 50 dynamic, of-the-moment destinations — all right here in the United States.

Some spots on the list ahead are newly blossoming thanks to hotel or infrastructure developments or revamped cultural attractions. Others caught on this summer, as social distancing made empty expanses of wilderness more compelling than ever and we all looked for new wells of charm in our own home states. What they all have in common is that singularity that makes a destination memorable — the sense that this place has something to offer that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

One day soon, we'll all get back to traveling the way we did before. We'll gripe about [security lines](#) and [airplane meals](#), delight at hearing an unfamiliar language or staying in a [new hotel](#), develop passionate loyalties for a particular food truck or coffee kiosk. Until then, we hope this list will serve as something to hold onto — to stoke your wanderlust and keep the tiny flame of optimism burning. Sure, it's a little bit aspirational. But that just means we're still willing to dream.

Ahead, Travel + Leisure's 50 best places to travel in 2021, listed in alphabetical order.

BULLFROG + BAUM

The Berkshires

City-dwellers have been visiting this region of gently rolling hills and charmingly sedate towns in [Western Massachusetts](#) since the 19th century, but a welcome boost of youthful energy arrived with the 2018 opening of the design-forward hotel [Tourists](#) in North Adams and, last year, the launch of [Miraval Berkshires](#), the third location of the luxe wellness resort. While summer is still the most popular season, thanks in part to the beloved classical music venue [Tanglewood](#) and dance center [Jacob's Pillow](#), there are still plenty of opportunities for social distancing, from the enormous exhibition spaces at the contemporary art museum [Mass Moca](#), to the pastoral acres surrounding the [Clark Art Institute](#) (home to the Institute's first-ever outdoor exhibition, *Ground/work*, through October 2021), to a hike up Mount Greylock or Monument Mountain, to a meal at [Cantina 229](#), a restaurant set on a farm that offers outdoor seating in warmer months. [Mooncloud](#), a new bar in Great Barrington, is riding out the pandemic with a slate of to-go meals and cocktail kits. Tuck in for the night at the peaceful but chic [Inn at Kenmore Hall](#), a bed and breakfast in a classical Georgian estate. —*Peter Terzian*



Eva LeWitt (b. Spoleto, 1985; lives and works in New York), Resin Towers A, B, and C, 2020. Resin, PVC, 128 x 10 x 10 in. (325.1 x 25.4 x 25.4 cm; each column). | CREDIT: THOMAS CLARK/COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND VI, VII, OSLO.