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Best Places to Travel in December

Patricia Doherty | October 20, 2020

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/winter-vacations/best-places-travel-december>

This eventful year is coming to an end, and a vacation might be the best way to bid farewell to 2020. If you're a fan of winter activities anticipating snow, crisp temperatures, and a mountain getaway, think about Breckenridge, Colorado where you'll find holiday festivities as well as great skiing. Also located in picturesque mountains with cozy places to enjoy winter weather, we have Lenox, Massachusetts in the Berkshires and Highlands in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

If you prefer a summerlike climate for your end-of-the-year escape, consider Miami, Puerto Rico, or Los Cabos and picture yourself sunning on the beach or poolside with a cocktail in hand. The Hawaiian Islands are favorite winter destinations, and this month we've focused on Lanai and the Big Island. The Republic of Maldives also offers a number of socially-distant vacation opportunities in exclusive resorts or individual villas.

Closer to home for most of us, Palm Springs is mild in December and a great place for shopping or relaxing. Las Vegas is entertaining any time of year, and hotels, casinos, and restaurants are open with COVID-19 guidelines in place. Whatever your reasons for looking forward to the last month of 2020, I'm hoping you'll end this year with a trip on your schedule.

These are the 11 best places to travel in December.

Lenox, Massachusetts

About three hours north of New York City, Lenox is a classic New England town in western Massachusetts. In winter, with temperatures in the 30's, the atmosphere summons thoughts of a cozy fireplace after a day in the snow. Nearby slopes include Jiminy Peak, Butternut, Catamount, and Bousquet for skiers, and there are cross country and snowshoe trails as well. A year-round vacation area, popular in summer for concerts at Tanglewood, Lenox is home to the Norman Rockwell Museum and the Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum with guided tours of the 1893 mansion. Author Edith Wharton's historic home is also open for tours. Choose a wellness experience at the luxurious Canyon Ranch with a variety of personalized programs. Lenox's newest inn, 33 Main, offers eight luxe guestrooms and a full gourmet breakfast daily. Or choose the intimate Gateways Inn, with eleven guestrooms. The Kemble Inn is on a quiet street in a Gilded Age mansion, just five miles from Bousquet Mountain. Set on 27 acres, the Seven Hills Inn was once a farmhouse built in the 1700's. Historic properties, charming surroundings, and bracing December weather make Lenox in the Berkshires a delightful winter getaway.

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