

26 PLACES TO ADD TO YOUR BUCKET LIST:

A-Z cities and countries well worth the visit.

Austin, Texas

Considered the live music capital of the world, this Texas gem is on every great city list and deservedly so. During March, visit the South by Southwest Film festival and swing by one of the craft breweries or distilleries. With several museums, shopping venues and sports activities to select from you will wonder why you haven't visited before.

Honorable mentions: Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Ankara, Turkey; and Anchorage, Alaska.

Berlin, Germany

Possibly best known for its infamous wall, built in 1961 and demolished in 1989, there is much more to this cosmopolitan, vibrant destination. Enjoy interesting architecture, including The Brandenburg gate and the Gendarmenmarkt, be sure to visit their world famous museums, take in a play, symphony or opera and hear some of the German greats— Bach, Beethoven, and Brecht.

Honorable mentions: Brisbane, Australia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Barrow, Alaska, the northern-most town in America.



Berlin Cathedral

Cairo, Egypt

Cairo is loud, dusty and filled with history. The city sits on the River Nile and is home to the Pyramids of Giza, Tahrir Square and the treasures of Tutankhamun. Visit the chaotic lanes of Khan Al Khalili for souvenirs and nearby Sharia Al Muizz before dining in one of the many highly-rated restaurants serving Egyptian cuisine.

Honorable mentions: Cordoba, Spain; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Cairo

Dublin, Ireland

I have to sing the praises of my own hometown! Dublin is the home of Guinness, the Book of Kells, James Joyce, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Dublin Castle, both dating back more than 800 years. There is a pub on every corner and several Michelin-starred restaurants to tempt the foodie within. My favorite place to visit? St Stephen's Green, a glorious green space close to the city center, full of flower beds and quiet benches.

Honorable mentions: Dubrovnik, Croatia; Dallas, Texas; and Dubai.



Edinburgh, Scotland

Truly the grand dame of Scotland, Edinburgh is a wonderful walking city that sits on a series of gently-sloped hills. Visit during festival season in summer or Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) and explore the Castle, Old Town, The Vaults and of course, include the Scottish delicacies - haggis, seafood and whisky (scotch) in your plans.

Honorable mentions: Estonia; Edmonton, Canada; and Estes Park, Colorado



Edinburgh

Faroe Islands

A collection of remote islands in the North Atlantic, the Faroes are a delight to any outdoor enthusiast with mountains, coastal cliffs and plenty of wildlife to enjoy. Summer is the best time to explore this unique location when you will enjoy several music festivals, culture, history and the extraordinary food only a seafaring culture can offer.

Honorable mentions: Florence, Italy; Fiji; and Freetown, Sierra Leone.



Faroe Islands

Granada, Spain

This small Andalusian city is a delight for architecture and history lovers; the Moorish Alhambra tops the list but don't miss the Realejo quarter, Basilica San Juan de Dios or Capilla Real. Leave plenty of time to wander the city's many parks, taste tapas often, especially gazpacho, jamón ibérico and the pescaito frito, visit museums and experience flamenco.

Honorable mentions: Geneva, Switzerland; Galapagos Islands; and Grand Caymans.



La Alhambra, Granada

Havana, Cuba

Just 103 miles off the Florida coast lies this sun-soaked, vibrant city. Explore the city on foot, walking past beautiful White corral buildings as you visit museums, churches and more. Spend your evenings at nightclubs, jazz sessions, cabarets or listening to Cuban beats at the local bar. Oh, and don't forget the 1950s American cars and those world-famous cigars.

Honorable mentions: Helsinki, Finland; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Hong Kong.

Istanbul, Turkey

Formerly known as Constantinople and Byzantium, Istanbul straddles Europe and Asia. The Aya Sofya should be on everyone's bucket list but Istanbul's list of attractions also includes mosques, basilicas, museums, palaces and bazaars. Love books? Wander the sahaflar. Fish markets? Visit Beyoğlu. Consider a day cruise to the Black Sea and don't forget to taste the coffee.

Honorable mentions: Ixtapa, Mexico; Irkutsk, Siberia; and Indonesia.

Johannesburg, South Africa

Jo'burg is the heart of South Africa and the perfect starting point for that once-in-a-lifetime safari. Don't miss the Apartheid Museum - a chilling history of the country's racism and struggle to democracy. Other must-sees: Wits Art Museum, Lilliesleaf Farm and Constitution Hill. Montecasino Bird Garden, the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens and Melville Koppies offer respite from the bustling city.

Honorable mentions: Jerusalem, Israel; Jamaica; and Jordan.



Mandela Square, Johannesburg

Kathmandu, Nepal

Colorful Kathmandu melds Buddhist and Hindu traditions; visit Swayambhunath Stupa, Kumari Bahal and Seto Machhendranath Temple. Wander the chaos of Atan Tole (market), rest in the Garden of Dreams and then dine on momos, samosas and sekuwa. Having traveled so far, you must visit Monkey Temple (Swaymbhunath) and consider splurging on a Himalayan guided trek.

Honorable mentions: Kolkata, India; Kuwait; and Koh Pha Ngan, Thailand.



Latvia

Latvia is bordered by Russia to the east and the Baltic Sea to the west and offers pristine beaches, dense forests and clear lakes for all manner of outdoor activities. It's one main city, Riga, boasts architecture, art and culture; walking tours are a great way to explore the highlights. Other must-sees: Turaida Museum Reserve and Cesis Castle.

Honorable mentions: London, England; Lisbon, Portugal; and La Paz, Bolivia.



Latvia

Melbourne, Australia

Often ranked among the most livable (and delicious) cities, Melbourne is also a great place to visit. Savor city views from the Rialto Tower before enjoying the Vic market, Flinders Street Station, arts, culture and festivals, the delightful St Kilda's promenade, the Melbourne Cup (in November) and 9 Aussie Rules football teams; what's not to love?

Honorable mentions: Manila, Philippines; Madagascar; and Madrid, Spain.

Nashville, Tennessee

Known as the country music capital, it is expected that you visit the Grand Ole Opry and the Hall of Fame and revel in the live music scene but don't miss out on Cheekwood Botanical Gardens or the Hermitage plantation and archeological site. Also worth visiting: Frist Center, Parnassus Books and Centennial Park.

Honorable mentions: New York City; Nice, France; and Nicaragua.



Cascade Atrium, Gaylord Opryland Resort

Oaxaca, Mexico

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Oaxaca packs a tourist punch. Visit the many churches (Santo Domingo) and museums (Museo Rufino Tamayo), bioluminescent Manialtepec Lagoon, explore pre-Hispanic, colonial and modern history and architecture and finish your days in Calle Alcalá. Tour the Ruins of Mitla, a Zapotec archaeological center and behold at Tule Tree, a 2000-year-old wonder.

Honorable mentions: Ottawa, Canada; Oslo, Norway; and Oxford, England.



Tule Tree, Oaxaca

Prague, Czech Republic

Cobbled streets, stunning architecture, and 1100 years of history attract many travelers. Favorite destinations include Prague Castle, Old Town Square, and St Vitus Cathedral. Prague Jewish Museum should not be missed and if you enjoy street music and art, finish your somber visit with a daytime stroll across Charles Bridge.

Honorable mentions: Paris, France; Oslo, Panama; and Penang, Malaysia.



Old Town, Prague

Quito, Ecuador

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the capital of Ecuador is built on the foundations of an Incan city, high in the Andes. Take a guided tour through Capilla del Hombre, eat street food in Parque de las Tripas, ride the SkyTram (TeleferiQo) and hike Rucu Pichincha. Oh! and travel the 12 miles to stand on the equator.

Honorable mentions: Queenstown, New Zealand; Quebec, Can.; and Qingdao, China.



Mercado Artesanal La Mariscal, Quito

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Copacabana, Ipanema, Mardi Gras, samba; we all know Rio even if we've never been. From the white beaches to the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, the city pulses with energy and passion. Don't miss the Tijuca rainforest, the botanical gardens and do whatever it takes to attend a football game – Brazil is one of the world's best teams.

Honorable mentions: Reykjavik, Iceland; Rome, Italy; and Romania.

Senegal

Six national parks, forests, lagoons, vibrant cities, history and more make Senegal the perfect destination whatever your pleasure. Village des Arts, Dakar houses some of Senegal's finest artists, while in Dakar, visit Mamelles Lighthouse. St Louis, West Africa's first French settlement is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Sine-Saloum Delta are also must-sees when exploring this fascinating country.

Honorable mentions: Singapore; St Petersburg, Russia; and Sevilla, Spain.

Trinidad & Tobago

Yes, it's the Caribbean with everything you'd expect – stunning beaches, sunshine, fabulous nightlife – but Trinidad/Tobago remains unsullied by droves of tourists. Activities include: Carnival in Port of Spain = outrageous colors and parties, diving in Speyside, hike-swim at Rio Seco Waterfall, observe birds at Wild Fowl Trust, bats at Mount Tamana Caves or leatherback turtles on Grand Riviere beach.

Honorable mentions: Tangiers, Morocco; Toronto, Canada; and Tunisia.

Unstad, Norway

Did you know that some of the world's best surfing is in Norway, above the Arctic Circle? If you want awe inspiring, Unstad is for you. Midnight hikes in summer, Northern Lights in winter, a photographer's paradise, delicious Norwegian seafood and no crowds; excuse me; I need to book my flight!

Honorable mentions: Uruguay; Udaipur, India; and Ubud, Indonesia.



Fjords, Unstad

Vanuatu

With 80 islands over 1300 kilometers, this South Pacific archipelago offers more than world class pristine beaches and diving in coral reefs, caves and wrecks. What else? Active volcano? Mt Yasur. UNESCO World Heritage Site? Chief Roi Mata Burial Site. Cultural interest? National Museum and Ekasup Village. Hiking? Lake Letas and Mt Garet.

Honorable mentions: Vancouver, Canada; Vienna, Austria; and Vietnam.

Wellington, New Zealand

My bucket list includes cycling New Zealand (1000 miles) which will include a ferry-ride to this enchanting capital. There's plenty to do: view the city from Mt Victoria, explore the family of four gardens, including the botanicals, visit Zealandia (consider a night tour.) and celebrate Maori culture and heritage at Te Papa Tongarewa and the Wharewaka.

Honorable mentions: Warsaw, Poland; Whistler, Canada; and Wales.



Maori Haka, Wellington

Xlendi and Xewkija, Malta

Yes, a two-fer! Five kilometers separate the fishing village of Xlendi, with snorkeling and diving, and Xewkija, the oldest village on Gozo Island with its beautiful Church of St John. Gozo offers a slower pace and different culture and cuisine from the oft-crowded island of Malta and, with myriad hiking trails and delightful weather, it is a great destination.

Honorable mentions: Xalapa, Mexico; Xi'an, China; and Xico, Mexico.

Yokohama, Japan

Yokohama boasts uncrowded streets and a slower pace than its northern neighbor, Tokyo; take advantage this - explore the city by rickshaw, visit one of the waterfront parks, enjoy a tea ceremony, traditional performing arts and guided brewery tours. The city offers local cuisine to tantalize your taste-buds with ramen, gyu-nabe, izakaya, saki, and authentic sushi.

Honorable mentions: Yurimaguas, Peru (gateway to the Amazon); Yeosu, Korea and Yakutsk, Siberia.



Izakaya, Yokohama

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Known as both the Black Coast and the Spice Islands, Zanzibar sits in the Indian Ocean. Take the Stone Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) walking tour and visit the Old Fort and Forodhani Gardens before you swim, snorkel or kayak or explore Jozani Natural Forest Reserve. Interesting fact: Freddie Mercury (Queen) was born here.

Honorable mentions: Zambia; Zurich, Switzerland; and Zagreb, Croatia.



Zanzibar Spice Market