

Travel Inspiration

24 Amazing Destinations Month by Month



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by the Earth Trekkers

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January

Siem Reap, Cambodia



Angkor Wat, located in Siem Reap, Cambodia, is one of the world's top destinations. But there is more to Siem Reap than just Angkor Wat. Visit Bayon with its hundreds of heads carved out of stone, Ta Prohm with its oversized tree roots growing over the temples, and Banteay Srei, a well-preserved temple that is gorgeous. A few days here will have you feeling a bit like Indiana Jones. At night, dine at one of Siem Reap's many great restaurants and explore the night markets. Plan to spend at least four days here. With more time, continue your travels through Cambodia or switch countries and head to Vietnam, Thailand, or Laos.

January

South Island of New Zealand



New Zealand is one of the most beautiful spots on the planet. If you only have a few weeks, stay on the South Island...you can't beat the scenery or the adventure activities here. Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world, is a top destination for outdoor activities. Go crazy and go bungee jumping, paragliding, or jet boat riding. Rent a car and tour the rest of the South Island to see more of the best New Zealand has to offer...Wanaka, Mt. Cook, Mt. Aspiring National Park, and Abel Tasman. Tour the wine regions, walk on a glacier, and cruise the fiords of the Milford Sound. New Zealand is so beautiful it's hard to believe it is even real.

February

Paris, France



Paris in February, you ask? Yes, it may be chilly, but prices will be low, hotels and top sites will be empty, and can you think of a more romantic destination to spend Valentine's Day?

February

Tasmania, Australia



In February, it's summertime in Australia. It's warm and sunny, a great time to visit this tiny, sometimes overlooked destination in Australia. Tasmania is an excellent spot for adventure sports and hiking, with its mountain scenery and rugged coastline. But there's also craft beer in Hobart, fresh oysters on Bruny Island, ghost tours and ocean adventures on the Tasman Peninsula, and scenic drives throughout Tasmania. This island may seem small when you look at it on a map, but there's enough to do here to keep you busy for weeks.

March

Cappadocia, Turkey



For one of the most unique travel destinations on the planet, look no farther than Cappadocia. Visit fairy chimneys, explore or even sleep in a cave, go on easy but very scenic hikes, and feast on delicious Turkish food. Our favorite activity was viewing Cappadocia from a hot air balloon, an unforgettable experience. In March, temperatures can still be chilly, but you will almost have the place to yourself.

March

Garden Route of South Africa



The Garden Route is pure fun, and yes, it is another gorgeous spot to visit. For animal lovers there are places to feed elephants, hold lemurs, swim with Great White sharks, walk a cheetah, go whale watching, and ride an ostrich. For outdoor enthusiasts there is hiking Robberg Peninsula, mountain biking, surfing, bungee jumping, and rock climbing. Visit the towns of Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, and Mossel Bay. Take your time and enjoy the views, sample the wine, feast on seafood, and have the trip of a lifetime.

April

Yangshuo, China



Yangshuo was our favorite spot in China. Why? With a backdrop of misty mountain peaks and small Chinese villages, learn Kung Fu and calligraphy, go shopping, dine on exquisite Chinese cuisine, and meet the friendly people here. Explore the Li River Valley by bicycle. Climb the peak in Xing Ping for amazing views and maybe even learn a few words of Mandarin. Yangshuo makes a fantastic cultural destination and gives visitors the chance to see the laid back country lifestyle of the people here, something most travelers miss when they stay only in the big cities.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

April

The tulips are in bloom in The Netherlands in April. It's a stunning display of color and a gorgeous time to visit Amsterdam. It's springtime in Europe and things are just starting to warm up. Street cafes are coming alive and the weather is just warm enough to go exploring. Visit the bulb fields, where the ground is carpeted with colorful displays of daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths.



May

Machu Picchu, Peru



Machu Picchu is a magical destination and a place everyone should see with their own eyes. In May, it is shoulder season. The weather is warm but tourist season is just starting to pick up. Get here before the crowds really start arriving in June for the best experience possible.

May

French Riviera, France



May is a fantastic time to visit the French Riviera. Sunny days, warm temperatures, and low crowds. Next month travelers will start arriving in droves. Base yourself in one of the coastal towns such as Nice, Cannes, or Antibes, and take day trips to explore the nearby towns. The food is phenomenal... Mediterranean cuisine with a French twist. You could easily have your best meal here, while overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and drinking French wine.

June

Prague, Czech Republic



Prague is one of the most photogenic cities in the world. Climb the Gothic towers for some of the best views over the city. Walk on iconic Charles Bridge, photograph the astronomical clock, visit Prague Castle, and wander the narrow city streets. The Jewish cemetery is amazing, with hundreds of years of tombstones stacked on top of each other. The Czech Republic brews some of the best beer in Europe. While in Prague, sample the beer at one (or more) of many beer halls and pubs.

June

Great Barrier Reef, Australia



June is one of the best months to visit the Great Barrier Reef. Yes, it is now winter in Australia, but the water is a pleasant 70 degrees Fahrenheit and the threat of cyclones and jellyfish are gone. Go snorkeling and scuba diving at this amazing Natural Wonder of the World. To complete the adventure, view the Great Barrier Reef from helicopter or seaplane.

July

Bavaria, Germany



Neuschwanstein Castle is what draws many visitors to Bavaria, but once here, you will quickly learn that Bavaria is a special place. Nestled at the foot of the Alps, Bavaria is paradise for hikers, photographers, families, and history buffs. Visit Zugspitze in the Alps, Germany's highest peak, drive the Romantic Road, and take day trips to Austria or Liechtenstein.

July

The Fjords of Norway



Norway is awesome, plain and simple. Like New Zealand, it is a gorgeous place to visit. Options for an amazing vacation here are endless, but for active travelers, there is no better place in the world to go hiking. Norway is a hiker's paradise. There are the crazy viewpoints like Kjeragbolten and Trolltunga, but other favorites are Pulpit Rock and Besseggen Ridge. Cruise the fjords, visit the quaint towns of Bergen and Stavanger, and travel up north to the Lofoten Islands. For real adventure, visit the island of Svalbard in the Arctic Circle, one of the most northernmost destinations in the world.

August

Fiji



Fiji is made up of several island groups, each offering a different experience for travelers. Want to learn how to surf? Fiji is perfect. Surf on waves that seem to go on forever and check out the monster waves at Cloud Break. Go snorkeling, relax on the beach, dive with sharks, and view some of the world's most spectacular sunsets. Fiji is a must for beach lovers!

August

Safari in Botswana



August is prime time to go on safari in Botswana. It is the dry season so the animals will be easier to spot as they congregate at the watering holes. Chobe National Park is one of the best places to see huge numbers of elephants, not to mention the rest of the Big 5. Botswana is also home to the Okavango Delta and the Kalahari Desert, other superb safari destinations.

September

Tuscany, Italy



Vineyards, hill towns, and Italian cuisine...need we say more? Many people who travel to Tuscany can't wait to go back a second or third time, and there's a good reason for it. Tuscany is the ultimate vacation spot. Park yourself in an Italian villa, go wine tasting, cycle through the countryside, visit amazing Florence and Siena, and bask in the warm sun of Italy.

September

London, United Kingdom



In September, the weather is still pleasant and peak tourist season is winding down. London is packed with things to do and this city deserves at least five days to see the best of it. Tour the icons of London, like Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey. It's very easy to take day trips to Windsor, Stonehenge, and Bath. Fall in love with London like we did.

October

Kyoto, Japan



In October, tourist season is ramping up just in time to catch the autumn colors. The peak time to see Kyoto ablaze in reds, oranges, and yellows as the Japanese Maples change color is October and November. You will have to compete with large crowds of visitors but what an amazing thing it would be to see the Japanese temples amidst a palette of fall colors.

October

Kathmandu, Nepal



October is also prime tourist season in Nepal. The monsoon is over and crystal clear skies take over. Daytime temperatures can still be very warm but the nights are beginning to cool off. Kathmandu and the surrounding valley is an eye opening, awesome place to visit. Walk the hectic streets of Thamel, visit the temples, and get a view of the Himalayas. This is also the perfect time to trek to Everest Base Camp and Annapurna Base Camp for those in search of adventure.

November

Halong Bay, Vietnam



Clear skies and pleasant temperatures makes November one of the best months to cruise Halong Bay in Vietnam. Two and three day cruises are offered. A three day cruise is preferable because this really lets you sail into the heart of Halong Bay. Stay busy with activities like kayaking and swimming, squid fishing, and taking a Vietnamese cooking class, or sit back, relax, and watch as some of the best scenery in Asia drifts past your cruise ship.

November

Taj Mahal, India



In November, the Taj Mahal sees clear skies and warm temperatures. Peak season is right around the corner, so getting here in early November gives you the advantage of smaller crowds and cheaper prices for hotels. You only need a day to see the Taj Mahal but it's a must-see sight on a trip to India and a bucket list destination for many travelers. From Agra, visit Delhi, Jaipur, the desert in Rajasthan, head north to the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh, or go south to Kerala and the beaches at Goa.

December

Bagan, Myanmar



Visiting Bagan, Myanmar is like stepping back in time. This is the land of thousands of temples. The area is best explored by bicycle, and many rental shops offer traditional pedal cycles or bicycles with a motor. Climb the temples at sunset for some amazing views, view Bagan from a hot air balloon at sunrise, and make some amazing memories here.

December

Krabi, Thailand



Krabi, Thailand is fabulous. Less touristy than Phuket, there is so much to do here. Krabi is one of the world's best spots to learn how to rock climb. Visit Koh Phi Phi and other islands by longtail boat, relax on the beaches, swim with bioluminescent plankton, and dine on amazing Thai food. This was our favorite spot for snorkeling (yes, we liked it more than the Great Barrier Reef) and Krabi is an epic destination for beach lovers, families, rock climbers, and adventure seekers.



