



Bucket List

I love traveling, learning about the history of other countries, discovering beautiful cities and different cultures... Are you like me? Depending on the type of trip we want to take, the web is the essential tool for discovering our favorite places to include on our list!

Where to go? ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}

Trip advisor is one of the most quoted sites when it comes to favourite travel destinations. It awards the *Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best*

¹ <https://www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice-Destinations-cTop-g1>

² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Dubai-emirate-United-Arab-Emirates>

³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai>

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bali>

⁵ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London>

⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanoi>

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

to locations that receive a high volume of above-and-beyond reviews and opinions from the Tripadvisor community over a 12-month period. Out of 8 million listings, fewer than 1% achieve this milestone. Below is some basic information on Trip Advisor's top 5 destinations.

- 1) **Dubai** – Dubai is the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates. Established in the 18th century as a small fishing village. By the beginning of the 20th century, Dubai was an important port. Many foreign merchants (chiefly Indians) settled there; until the 1930s it was known for pearl exports. More recently, Dubai has become the region's chief port for the import of Western manufactures. Most of the United Arab Emirates' banks and insurance companies are headquartered there. In 1966, the offshore oil field of Fath was discovered in the Persian Gulf about 75 miles (120 km) due east of Dubai, in waters where the state had granted an oil concession. By the 1970s, three 20-story submarine tanks were installed on the seabed at the site. Shaped like inverted champagne glasses, they are popularly called the "Three Pyramids of Dubai." Dubai's estimated oil reserves are less than one-twentieth those of neighbouring Abu Dhabi, but oil income combined with trading wealth has made Dubai a very prosperous state. Dubai has concentrated on a wide range of development and construction plans designed to promote tourism, transport, and industry. It has the second-most five-star hotels in the world!
- 2) **Bali** – Bali is a province of Indonesia and the westernmost of the Lesser Sunda Islands. The province is Indonesia's main tourist destination, with a significant rise in tourism since the 1980s (tourism accounts for 80% of Bali's economy). Bali is part of the Coral Triangle, the area with the highest biodiversity of marine species, especially fish and turtles. Bali is home to a unified confederation of kingdoms composed of 10 traditional royal Balinese houses, each ruling a specific geographic area. In the 1930s, anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, artists Miguel Covarrubias and Walter Spies, and musicologist Colin McPhee all spent time here. Their accounts of the island and its peoples created a western image of Bali as "an enchanted land of aesthetes at peace with themselves and nature". Western tourists began to visit the island. The sensuous

image of Bali was enhanced in the West by a quasi-pornographic 1932 documentary about a day in the lives of two teenage Balinese girls. The film was a great success and almost single-handedly made Bali into a popular spot for tourists.

- 3) **London** – London is the capital and largest city of England. The City, its ancient core and financial centre, was founded by the Romans as Londinium and retains its medieval boundaries. London is one of Europe's most economically powerful cities and one of the world's major financial centres. London's diverse cultures encompass over 300 languages. The city is also home to four World Heritage sites: the Tower of London; Kew Gardens; the combined Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church; and the historic settlement in Greenwich, where the Royal Observatory defines the prime meridian (0° longitude).
- 4) **Hanoi** – Hanoi is the capital and second-most populous city of Vietnam. In the third century BC, the Cổ Loa Capital Citadel of Âu Lạc was constructed in the area of modern-day Hanoi. Âu Lạc then fell under China rule for around a thousand years. In 1010, Vietnamese emperor Lý Thái Tổ established the capital of the imperial Vietnamese nation Đại Việt in modern-day central Hanoi. In 1802, the Nguyễn dynasty moved the national capital to Huế, and in 1831, the city was renamed Hanoi. From 1902 to 1945, it served as the capital of French Indochina. Hanoi is now a major tourist destination, with 18.7 million domestic and international visitors in 2022. The city hosts the Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long (a UNESCO⁸ World Heritage site), the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Hoàn Kiếm Lake, West Lake, and Ba Vì National Park. The city boasts a wide range of architectural styles, including French colonial architecture and disorganized alley-tube houses reflecting the city's rapid growth in the 20th century.
- 5) **Rome** - Rome is the capital of Italy. It is the third most populous city in the European Union. Rome's history spans 28 centuries. While Roman mythology dates the founding of Rome at around 753 BC, the site has been inhabited for much longer, making it a major human settlement for almost three millennia and one of the oldest

⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

continuously occupied cities in Europe. The city's population originates from a mix of Latins, Etruscans, and Sabines. Rome is regarded by many as the first-ever Imperial city and metropolis. In 2019, Rome was the 14th most visited city in the world, with 8.6 million tourists, the third most visited city in the European Union, and the most popular tourist destination in Italy. Its historic centre is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Ten most visited countries in the world⁹

Using a different angle, Data Panda used data on international arrivals collected by the World Tourism Organization to compile a list of the **most visited countries in 2023**. Topping the chart, with a massive number of 89.4 million arrivals, is **France**. This is a testimony to its enduring popularity amongst tourists, drawn to its diverse regional cultures, historical sites, museums, gastronomy, and the romantic allure of Paris. Stepping up to the second spot is **Spain**, counting 83.7 million arrivals. The **United States** seizes the third spot with 79.3 million visitors. In the fourth spot is **China**, an Asian giant that had 65.7 million arrivals. **Italy** marks the fifth position with 64.5 million arrivals.

In the US¹⁰

As the third-largest country in the world, the United States offers an array of fascinating places to explore. The AAA (American Automobile Association) gathered data on the **top US traveled cities** based on 2021 online sales information. The following five cities came up at the top: 1) **Orlando** (Florida); 2) **Anaheim** (California); 3) **Las Vegas** (Nevada); 4) **New York** (New York); and 5) **Denver** (Colorado).

⁹ <https://www.datapandas.org/ranking/most-visited-countries#top>

¹⁰ <https://www.aaa.com/tripcanvas/article/50-top-travel-destinations-in-the-us-CM534>

More adventurous¹¹

Looking for exciting locations to explore this year? From diving with sharks on Australia's Coral Coast to rafting the white rapids of West Virginia, National Geographic has some unique ideas. Their top 5 travel experiences for 2024 are: 1) horseback safari in Kenya; 2) Olympic Marathon in Paris; 3) ski tour through UNESCO sites in Georgia; 4) bear-watching at Katmai National Park, Alaska; and 5) live music in Kyoto, Japan.

Wherever you decide to go, one thing is sure: you want your stay to be as comfortable as possible 😊. For hotels, this means having sufficient and competent staff, especially housekeepers. Unfortunately, staff shortage is still the NUMBER 1 issue in the hotel industry. One way to alleviate this problem is to implement an electronic tipping solution like **Tip&Go**, which can increase the earnings of hotel employees by up to 30% (or \$5 per hour).

Francis Léonard, CEO

TIP&GO®

Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ75L0Xplb0>

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¹¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/2024/01/30/national-geographic-travel-destinations-2024/72399159007/>