

curated.

TRAVEL STORIES

BIG IDEAS
*and Giant Ferris
Wheels*

**LAST-MINUTE
BEACHES**
in the USA

6 SEASIDE EATS
of Triple-D Fame

WALK THE EDGE
*Stunning Coastal
Hikes*

SEPTEMBER 2025



From the Editor

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Curated, a magazine dedicated to the art of travel. Every story in these pages is chosen to spark curiosity and awaken the thrill of discovery. From hidden villages to spontaneous beach escapes, we aim to bring you experiences that go beyond the usual tourist path.

The image alongside this letter—a dirt road winding through the jungles of India—captures exactly what Curated is about: the moment an adventure begins, when the world feels alive, mysterious, and full of possibility. It's that zing of inspiration that moves my soul and drives every journey I take, and it's what I hope this magazine brings to you.

Thank you for joining us on this first step. Open these pages, explore, and let each story lead you to your next unforgettable adventure.

Warmly,
Sandra Thomas-Comenole
Editor-in-Chief

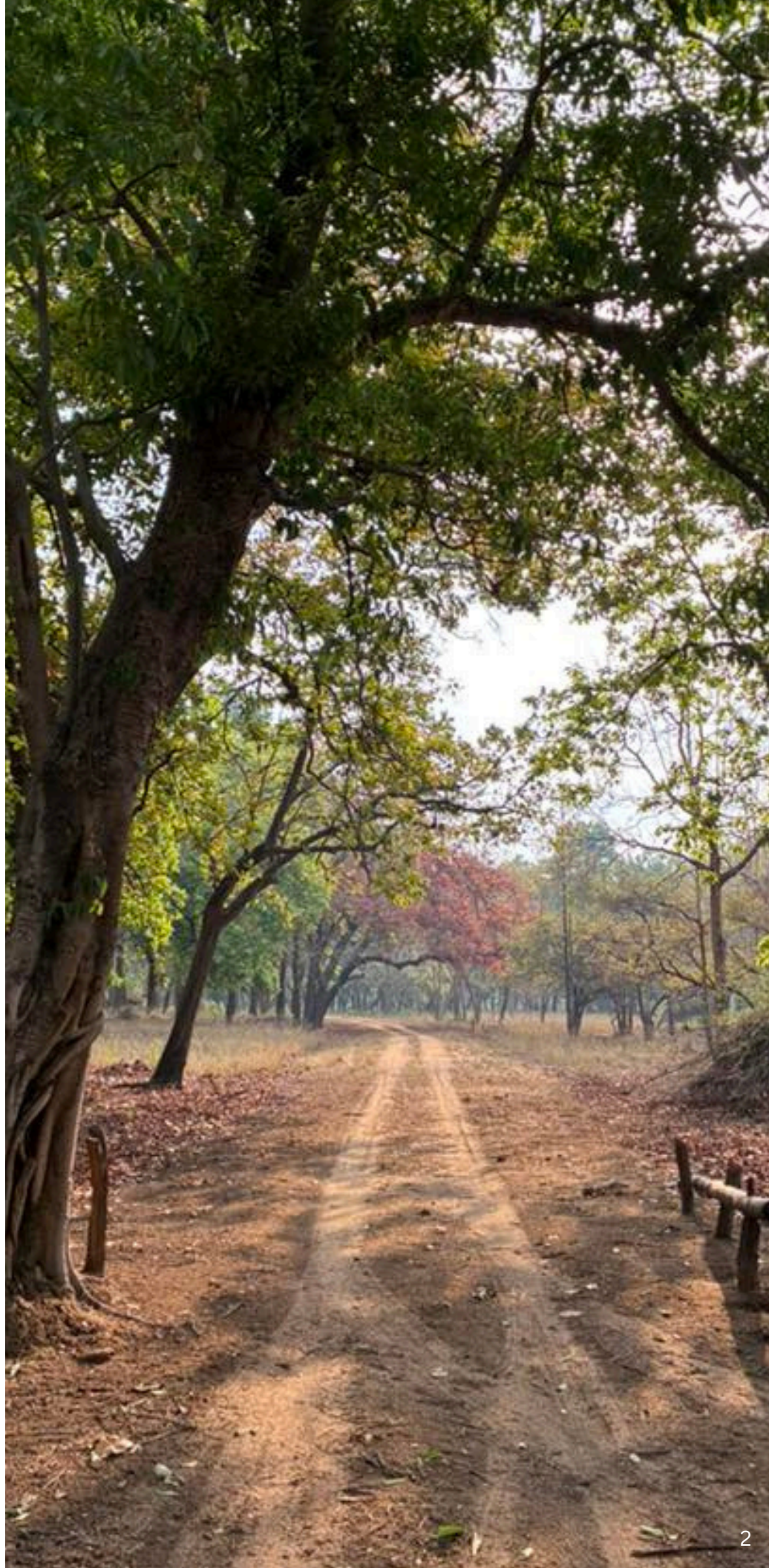


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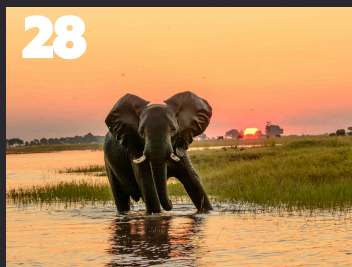
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be amazed.

A glimpse, a pause, a world waiting to unfold. Tiny details hint at vast adventures, hidden corners, and stories that stir the senses. Let your curiosity lead you—this is just the beginning. *This is curated. Dare to explore.*

NOT YOUR AVERAGE OSAKA



RESONATING MICROCOSMS IN THE COMMON CAMELLIA GARDEN - LIQUIFIED LIGHT COLOR, DUSK TO DAWN, 2022, TEAMLAB. © TEAMLAB, COURTESY PACE GALLERY.

Neon Eats to Fairy-Tale Plants

The sizzle of a hot griddle, the aroma of batter, cabbage, and savory fillings drifting through narrow streets—this is Osaka, where every corner hums with life and flavor. Start your adventure with a taste of the city’s iconic okonomiyaki near Umeda Station, and let that culinary curiosity guide you deeper into a city that surprises at every turn. From glowing digital gardens to serene waterfalls and unexpected architectural marvels, Osaka offers experiences that linger in the memory long after the first bite.

Must-Try Food - Okonomiyaki

No visit to Osaka is complete without indulging in okonomiyaki, the city's beloved savory pancake layered with cabbage, meat or seafood, and topped with tangy sauces. Near [Umeda Station](#), you'll find a cluster of restaurants perfect for sampling this iconic dish. From bustling, casual spots to more intimate local favorites, these eateries showcase Osaka's mastery of flavor, texture, and culinary fun. Let the first bite guide you through the city's energy and spirit—it's a meal you'll remember as much as the sights themselves.

TeamLab Botanical Garden

Step into a world where nature and digital art intertwine at the [TeamLab Botanical Garden](#). This immersive experience transforms a traditional Japanese garden into a luminous wonderland, where blossoms shimmer and colors ripple as if alive. Perfect for travelers seeking the magical and unexpected, it's a space that makes you pause, reflect, and marvel at human creativity.

Minoh Falls

Just a short trip from the city, [Minoh Falls](#) offers a quiet, refreshing escape into nature. Surrounded by forest trails and seasonal foliage, this cascading waterfall lets visitors reconnect with the serene beauty of the Japanese landscape. Ideal for hikers, photographers, and anyone who wants a breath of fresh air, Minoh Falls is a reminder that Osaka's charm isn't only found in neon-lit streets.

Maishima Incineration Plant

For a touch of the unexpected, the [Maishima Incineration Plant](#) turns environmental infrastructure into a work of art. Designed by Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, the plant's colorful facade and playful curves make it feel more like a fairytale castle than a facility for waste processing. This architectural gem demonstrates Osaka's love of the unconventional, blending function, creativity, and imagination.

MINOH, INSECTARIUM. IMAGE BY HARU-DACHS FROM PIXABAY.



Osaka invites visitors to taste, explore, and marvel. From savoring every bite of okonomiyaki to wandering through radiant gardens, cascading waterfalls, and whimsical architecture, the city pulses with energy, discovery, and unforgettable experiences. It's a place where curiosity rewards every corner you turn—and every story you bring home.



MASHIMA PLANT. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAISHIMA INCINERATION PLANT.
MINOH FALLS. IMAGE BY SOURIAN FROM PIXABAY.
OKONOMIYAKI. PHOTO COURTESY OF CANVA.



LINCOLN CENTER. PHOTO BY ROSIE MARINELLI, COURTESY OF LINCOLN CENTER.

Lincoln Center's 25/26 Season: Pay-What-You-Will Performances All Year Long

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has unveiled its 2025–2026 season, bringing a sweeping array of music, dance, theater, and multidisciplinary performances from around the world—and making them more accessible than ever with a Pay-What-You-Will policy for all events.

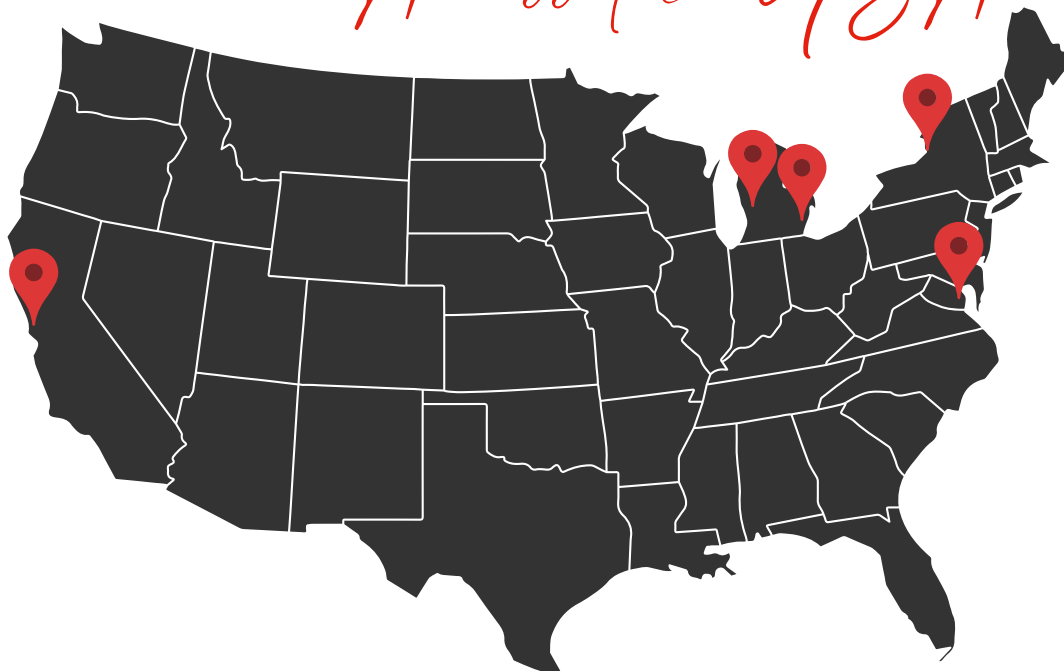
This season features Visionary Artist Jeanine Tesori, celebrated for her Tony-winning work and genre-spanning collaborations. Her programming includes stagings of her opera *Blue*, the musical *Violet* performed in ASL by Deaf Broadway, a community choir series, and innovative new works.

Audiences can also look forward to the Legacies of San Juan Hill Festival, the 40th anniversary revival of Philip Glass's *Songs From Liquid Days*, and premieres from acclaimed artists like Du Yun and choreographer Kyle Abraham. From immersive Hip-Hop orchestral experiences to cutting-edge international music festivals, the season reflects Lincoln Center's commitment to artistic excellence and inclusivity.

Fall presentations go on sale September 10, but with Pay-What-You-Will pricing, every performance is designed to be within reach for all.

upcoming art exhibitions

Across the USA



VIVID LIME ICICLE TOWER (DETAIL), 2022. DALE CHIHULY. BLOWN GLASS AND STEEL SCULPTURE. PHOTO © CHIHULY STUDIO, COURTESY OF FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK.
 THE WATERS OF TOMORROW, 2019. MOIRA VILLIARD. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, VIA DIA (DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS).
 ÉDOUARD MANET, THE RAILWAY (1873). COURTESY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.
 RON BLUNT. HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN. COURTESY OF OTA FINE ARTS, VICTORIA MIRO, AND DAVID ZWIRNER ©YAYOI KUSAMA
 GRANDMA MOSES, WE ARE RESTING, 1951, OIL ON HIGH-DENSITY FIBERBOARD, OVERALL: 24 × 30 IN. (61 × 76.2 CM), SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE KALLIR FAMILY, IN MEMORY OF HILDEGARD BACHERT, 2019.55, © GRANDMA MOSES PROPERTIES CO., NY



Grandma Moses – A Good Day's Work

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

Dates: 10/24/25 – 07/12/26

A comprehensive look at Grandma Moses' celebrated depictions of rural American life.

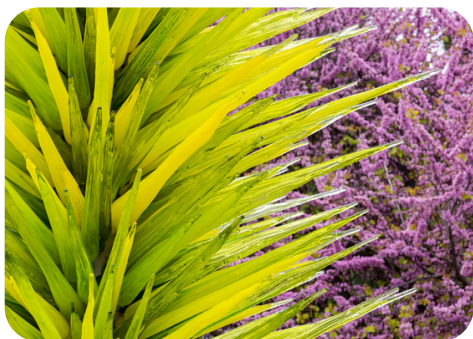


Native American Art – Anishinaabe Masterpieces

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

Dates: 09/28/25 – 04/08/26

A landmark exhibition featuring 90 works by over 60 Anishinaabe artists, exploring cultural heritage, artistry, and identity.



Dale Chihuly – CHIHULY at Meijer Gardens

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI

Dates: 05/01/26-11/01/26

Chihuly's grand return to Meijer Gardens with indoor galleries and breathtaking outdoor displays.



Manet & Morisot – Impressionist Dialogues

Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA

Dates: 10/11/25-03/01/26

Examines the artistic relationship between Édouard Manet and Berthe Morisot. Presented alongside multiple concurrent shows during San Francisco Art Week.



Yayoi Kusama – One with Eternity

Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY

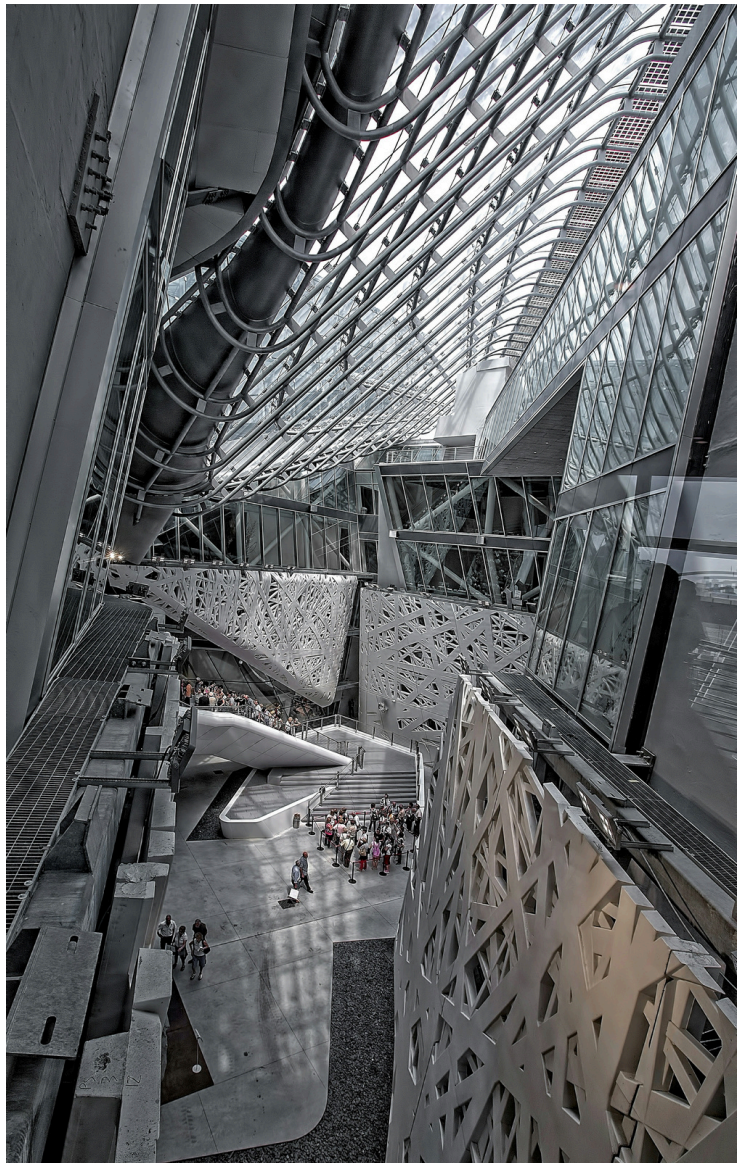
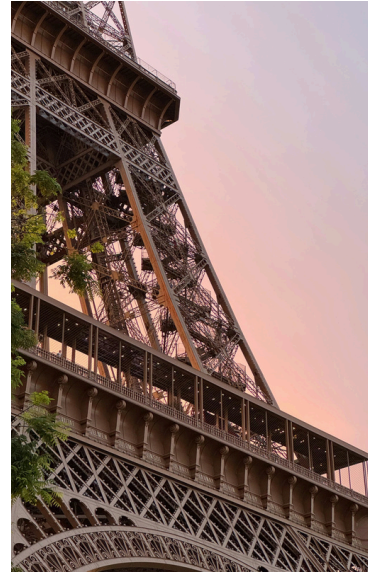
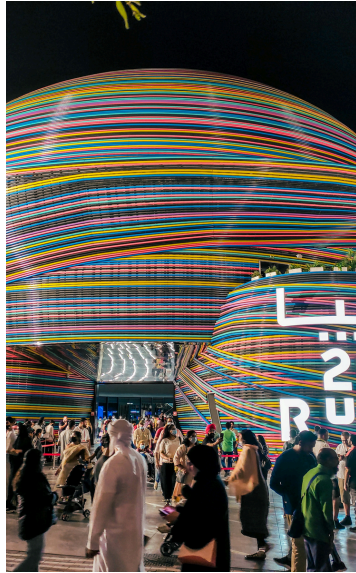
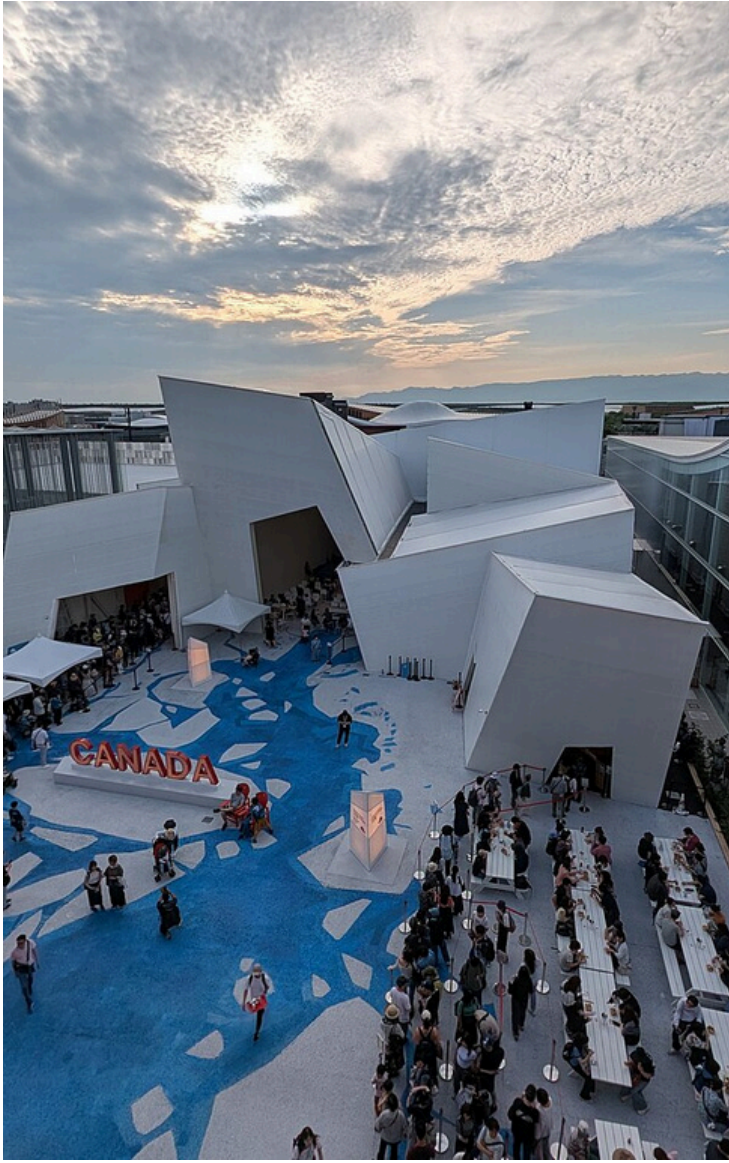
Dates: 10/02/25-03/02/26

This U.S. retrospective features two immersive Infinity Mirrored Rooms (Phall's Field and My Heart Is Dancing into the Universe) and a monumental Pumpkin sculpture.



Legacy of World's Fairs

The grounds of a World's Fair pulse with curiosity, wonder, and invention. From the very first fairs in the 19th century to the modern Expo, these global gatherings have always been about imagining the future. Visitors would stroll through sprawling grounds, marveling at grand pavilions, iconic structures, and the latest inventions. Today, while the modern Expo continues every four years in different host countries, many landmarks from past fairs still stand, offering travelers a chance to witness history firsthand.



EXPO 2020 METRO STATION 2, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. PHOTO BY HAIDER ALI ON UNSPLASH.
 EXPO 2025, OSAKA, JAPAN – CANADA PAVILION. PHOTO BY USER:VZP10224, FROM WIKIPEDIA.
 EXTERIOR VIEW OF PAVILION NULL², EXPO 2025, OSAKA, KANSAI. PHOTO BY YOICHI OCHIAI, CC BY-SA 2.0, VIA FLICKR.

EFFEL TOWER. PHOTO BY MATTHEW JARZYNOWSKI ON UNSPLASH.
 SPACE NEEDLE, SEATTLE, USA. PHOTO BY LOUIE CEPEDA ON PEXELS.
 MYAKU-MYAKU PLUSH TOYS LINED UP TIGHTLY AT A MERCHANDISE STORE AT THE EXPO VENUE — KONOYAMA WARD, OSAKA CITY. PHOTO VIA JAPAN FORWARD.
 OPPOSITE: EXPO VILLAGE, MILANO, ITALY, 2015. PHOTO BY RICARDO GOMEZ ANGEL ON UNSPLASH.



ICONIC WORLD'S FAIRS

You Can Visit

The World's Fairs have always been a showcase for human ingenuity, imagination, and ambition. While many exhibitions were temporary, some structures endured, becoming iconic landmarks that travelers can still experience today. From soaring towers to innovative housing experiments, these creations capture the spirit of their fairs and invite modern visitors to witness history in a tangible, awe-inspiring way. Whether you're wandering the streets of Paris or exploring a futuristic neighborhood in Montreal, each site offers a window into a moment when the world paused to celebrate innovation.

Eiffel Tower, Paris (1889)

Rising above the Paris skyline, the Eiffel Tower remains one of the most recognizable monuments in the world. Built as the centerpiece of the 1889 Exposition Universelle, it was an engineering marvel of its time, standing taller than any man-made structure before it. Originally controversial for its bold design, the Tower has become a symbol of Parisian elegance and ingenuity. Today, visitors can ascend via elevators or climb the stairs to multiple observation decks, dine at the restaurants perched on its levels, and enjoy panoramic views of the city's streets, gardens, and the Seine River below. Experiencing the Eiffel Tower is like stepping into the audacity of the late 19th century, when the world gathered to celebrate human achievement.

Space Needle, Seattle (1962)

The Space Needle embodies the optimism of the Space Age, soaring above Seattle with its iconic saucer-shaped top. Constructed for the Century 21 Exposition, it represented a city looking to the future, blending cutting-edge architecture with the excitement of exploration and innovation. Today, travelers can ride the elevator to the observation deck for 360-degree views of Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, and the cityscape. The revolving SkyCity restaurant allows for a leisurely meal while the world spins gently below, and the surrounding grounds feature exhibits celebrating the fair's history. Visiting the Space Needle is an opportunity to touch the spirit of the 1960s, when dreams of space and technological progress shaped urban landscapes.

EIFFEL TOWER, PARIS. PHOTO BY ABUZAR XHEIKH ON UNSPLASH.



UNISPHERE, NEW YORK CITY. IMAGE BY CREATIVEMOVEMENTGLOBAL FROM PIXABAY.

Unisphere, New York (1964–65)

Nestled in the heart of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, the Unisphere is a 12-story stainless steel globe that captures the imagination with its intricate depiction of Earth. Created as the centerpiece of the 1964–65 New York World’s Fair, it symbolized “Peace Through Understanding” during a period of geopolitical tension. The Unisphere remains a striking public art piece, inviting visitors to wander its grounds, admire the reflections in its surrounding pools, and photograph its geometric elegance against the sky. Walking among its pathways, travelers are reminded of a time when the world gathered to celebrate international cooperation, culture, and technological achievement.

Tower of the Sun, Osaka (1970)

The Tower of the Sun rises boldly from Expo Commemoration Park in Osaka, Japan, its vibrant golden face and striking forms commanding attention. Created for Expo ’70, the tower encapsulated the event’s theme of “Progress and Harmony for Mankind,” blending art, symbolism, and futurist vision. Visitors today can admire the structure from multiple angles, with occasional interior access through guided tours that reveal artistic murals and installations within. Its dramatic presence reminds travelers of Japan’s post-war optimism and the power of creativity to inspire generations. Experiencing the tower is a journey into the spirit of the 1970 Expo, where imagination and innovation merged in physical form.

Habitat 67, Montreal (1967)

In Montreal, Habitat 67 stands as a living experiment in urban design. Built for Expo 67, Moshe Safdie’s modular housing complex challenged conventional ideas of city living with interlocking concrete units, private terraces, and innovative communal spaces. While still a functioning residential area, the complex draws visitors eager to see how 1960s architectural audacity translated into modern habitation. Walking along the exterior pathways, travelers can admire the geometric complexity and thoughtful integration of nature, light, and space. Habitat 67 offers a rare opportunity to experience a futuristic vision that remains functional, artistic, and inspirational over fifty years later.

Exploring these iconic World’s Fair structures allows travelers to step directly into history and experience the ambition that shaped entire eras. Each landmark tells a story of innovation, creativity, and global vision, inviting visitors to celebrate the bold ideas that changed the world. From the streets of Paris to the parks of Osaka, Montreal, and New York, these enduring marvels are proof that human imagination, when set free, can leave an unforgettable mark on the landscape of our world.



THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO ARCHIVE. PHOTO BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

Big Ideas & Giant Ferris Wheels

World's Fairs have long been stages for invention and imagination. Some of the most famous creations debuted at these expositions:

- **FERRIS WHEEL – CHICAGO, 1893**
- **TELEPHONE – PHILADELPHIA, 1876**
- **CRACKER JACK – CHICAGO, 1893**
- **JUICY FRUIT GUM – ST. LOUIS, 1904**
- **X-RAY MACHINE – PARIS, 1900**
- **ICE CREAM CONE – ST. LOUIS, 1904**

These innovations, some playful, some transformative, remind us that World's Fairs were never just about monuments—they were about ideas that changed the world.



MYAKU-MYAKU PLUSH TOYS LINED UP TIGHTLY AT A MERCHANDISE STORE AT THE EXPO VENUE — KONOJANA WARD, OSAKA. PHOTO VIA JAPAN FORWARD.



Exploring the Modern Expo — Osaka and Beyond

Step into the Expo of today and it's like traveling the globe in a single day. Modern Expos are organized into country pavilions, each offering a window into culture, technology, and innovation. This year, Osaka hosts the Expo, inviting visitors to explore cutting-edge exhibits, interactive installations, and culinary delights from around the world.

Where Innovation Meets Culture

Modern Expos continue the tradition of inspiring awe. Pavilion designs push architectural boundaries, and interactive technology lets you experience the future firsthand. From robotics demonstrations to sustainable energy solutions, every corner sparks curiosity. It's a playground for travelers who want to see what's next in art, science, and global collaboration.

Tips for Travelers

- Plan your day by pavilions: prioritize must-see countries and exhibits.
- Try local cuisines: many pavilions offer authentic dishes you won't find outside their country.
- Immerse yourself in culture: performances, workshops, and art installations make each visit unforgettable.
- Time your visit: early morning or late afternoon often avoids the biggest crowds and lets you fully enjoy the experience.

The magic of the Expo is rooted in history. Landmarks like the Eiffel Tower or Space Needle echo the ambition and creativity that continue to define Expos today. Visiting the modern Expo is more than sightseeing—it's stepping into a story that spans centuries, where every pavilion, invention, and performance celebrates the human drive to dream bigger.



Looking Ahead: Riyadh 2030

The next World Expo in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2030) promises to be a showcase of innovation and cultural exchange in the heart of the Middle East. Focused on sustainability, technological advancement, and global collaboration, visitors can expect immersive pavilions, futuristic designs, and unique cultural experiences. Planning a trip now allows travelers to look forward to exploring this ambitious vision of tomorrow while experiencing the region's rich heritage firsthand.



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA – RIYADH SKYLINE AT NIGHT, INCLUDING RIYADH TOWER, KINGDOM CENTER, AND KINGDOM TOWER. PHOTO BY MOHAMED HUSSAIN YOUNIS, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
NATURAL ARCH FORMATION IN THE RIYADH DESERT, SAUDI ARABIA. PHOTO BY KASHIF HAMEED, VIA SCOPIO.



Neon lights pulse, footsteps echo, and the city hums with energy that never sleeps. Every corner reveals a new rhythm, a new story, a chance to feel alive in the heartbeat of urban life. Let yourself wander, soak it in, and catch the vibe that makes the city unforgettable.

Catch the Vibe

Navigating the Amazon

Inkaterra's Commitment to Sustainable Luxury



HOTEL SPOTLIGHT



“A short canoe ride from Puerto Maldonado brings you to Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, a lodge nestled within a 380-hectare private ecological reserve.”

As your canoe gently glides along the meandering Madre de Dios River, the dense Amazon rainforest envelops you, its towering trees and vibrant wildlife a testament to nature's splendor. This serene journey leads you to Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica, a sanctuary where luxury and sustainability harmoniously coexist.

Eco-Conscious Architecture

Upon arrival, you're welcomed into 35 private cabanas, each designed with inspiration from the indigenous Ese'Eja culture. Constructed using local materials such as bamboo and thatch, these structures minimize environmental impact while providing comfort and authenticity. The design ensures that the lodge integrates seamlessly into the rainforest landscape, preserving the natural habitat.



Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. The lodge utilizes solar panels to generate electricity, harnessing the abundant sunlight of the region. Organic waste is composted on-site, enriching the soil and supporting local agriculture. Additionally, eco-friendly amenities are provided to guests, further emphasizing the lodge's dedication to sustainability.

Biodiversity Conservation

Situated adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve, the lodge is part of a 17,000-hectare private ecological reserve. This strategic location allows guests to experience the rich biodiversity of the Amazon firsthand. Over 540 bird species have been documented within the lodge's grounds, highlighting its role in preserving the region's ecological heritage.

Community Engagement and Cultural Preservation

Inkaterra's sustainability efforts extend beyond environmental conservation. The lodge actively supports local communities through employment opportunities and cultural exchange programs. By engaging with indigenous groups and promoting traditional knowledge, Inkaterra fosters a deeper understanding and respect for the region's cultural heritage .



inkaterra Hacienda Concepción: A Gateway to Regenerative Tourism

A short canoe ride from Puerto Maldonado brings you to Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, a lodge nestled within a 380-hectare private ecological reserve. This intimate setting offers guests a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the Amazon's natural beauty while supporting sustainable tourism practices.



Sustainable Practices and Local Sourcing

The lodge's commitment to sustainability is evident in its operations. Dishes are prepared using organic and locally sourced ingredients, reducing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation. This approach not only supports local farmers but also ensures that guests enjoy fresh, authentic Amazonian cuisine.

Educational Experiences and Conservation Efforts

Guests at Hacienda Concepción can participate in guided excursions led by knowledgeable local guides. These experiences provide insights into the region's ecosystems and conservation challenges. By educating visitors, the lodge promotes environmental stewardship and encourages responsible tourism practices .

In both Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica and Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, sustainability is not just a concept but a way of life. From eco-friendly architecture and renewable energy use to community engagement and biodiversity conservation, these lodges exemplify how luxury travel can coexist with environmental responsibility. Staying at these lodges offers more than just a retreat; it provides an opportunity to contribute to the preservation of one of the world's most vital ecosystems.

INKATERRA HACIENDA CONCEPCIÓN RESORT. MULTIPLE PHOTOS FROM THE INKATERRA PRESS KIT. © INKATERRA. USED WITH PERMISSION; "INKATERRA" CREDITED AS THE ORIGINAL SOURCE.

WALK THE EDGE

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, JULIAN, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES. PHOTO BY SÉBASTIEN GOLDBERG ON UNSPLASH.



Stunning Coastal Hikes

The world's coastlines are playgrounds of adventure, where the meeting of land and sea creates landscapes of breathtaking beauty. From rugged cliffs and hidden coves to turquoise waters and golden sands, coastal hikes offer travelers a chance to connect with nature in a way few experiences can match. Whether you crave dramatic vistas, tranquil beaches, or charming fishing villages, these hikes across the globe promise unforgettable journeys along the water's edge.

**Pacific Crest Trail – California, USA
(Lost Coast Section)**

Northern California, USA

Stretching along the remote Lost Coast, this section of the Pacific Crest Trail delivers a wild, untamed experience. Hikers navigate rugged cliffs, windswept beaches, and lush forested paths, all with the Pacific Ocean shimmering alongside. What makes it stand out is the combination of isolation and dramatic natural scenery—hikers feel as if they’ve stumbled onto a coastline untouched by modern life.

[Learn more](#)



“What makes it stand out is the combination of isolation and dramatic natural scenery.”



Wild Atlantic Way – Ireland

Western coast of Ireland

Although primarily a driving route, walking segments along the Wild Atlantic Way offer some of Ireland’s most spectacular coastal scenery. Trails along the Cliffs of Moher, Slieve League, and Donegal coast provide sweeping ocean vistas, dramatic cliffs, and a glimpse into Ireland’s rugged beauty. This hike stands out for its combination of history, culture, and the raw power of the Atlantic waves.

[Learn more](#)

Dragon’s Back – Hong Kong

Shek O to Big Wave Bay, Hong Kong

Dragon’s Back is a green ribbon of trail overlooking the South China Sea. Its rolling hills provide panoramic ocean views, and hikers are rewarded with glimpses of small beaches and local villages. What sets this trail apart is its accessibility—just minutes from the city, yet it feels worlds away, offering an invigorating escape into nature.

[Learn more](#)

CLIFFS OF MOHER, LISLORKAN NORTH, COUNTY CLARE, IRELAND. PHOTO BY BREE ANNE ON UNSPLASH.
DRAGON’S BACK HIKING TRAIL, HONG KONG. PHOTO BY THOMAS FAULL, VIA GETTY IMAGES SIGNATURE



Essaouira Coastal Walk – Morocco

Essaouira, Morocco

Hikers along this Atlantic coast encounter charming medinas, fishing villages, and wide, breezy beaches. The trail offers dramatic cliff views and a taste of Moroccan culture. What makes it unique is the blend of coastal scenery and cultural immersion, with bustling markets and local artistry lining the route.

[Learn more](#)

Cami de Cavalls – Menorca, Spain

Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain

This historic trail encircles the entire island of Menorca (about 185 km), passing cliffs, secluded coves, and pristine beaches. Hikers encounter dramatic vistas and peaceful natural spots perfect for reflection or a seaside picnic. Its uniqueness comes from the mix of history and nature—an ancient path that connects the island’s coastal heritage with stunning landscapes.

[Learn more](#)

Acadia National Park – Maine, USA

Maine, USA

Acadia’s coastal hikes traverse rocky shores, dense forests, and mountain ridges overlooking the Atlantic. Iconic trails like Ocean Path and Precipice Trail offer unforgettable ocean views. What makes Acadia special is its combination of dramatic landscapes, wildlife encounters, and the rugged charm of the northeastern coast.

[Learn more](#)

Costa Verde Trail – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This trail weaves through lush rainforest along Rio’s Atlantic coastline, connecting remote beaches, waterfalls, and small fishing villages. Hikers experience a mix of natural beauty and vibrant local culture. Its standout feature is the seamless transition from dense tropical forests to sparkling seaside panoramas.

[Learn more](#)



TREKKING ON MENORCA SEAFRONT ROCKS, CAMÍ DE CAVALLS. PHOTO BY SARA GARCIA, VIA GETTY IMAGES. COSTA VERDE, BRAZIL. PHOTO BY EDUARDO CABANAS, VIA GETTY IMAGES.



STUNNING COASTAL CLIFFS, GREAT OCEAN ROAD. PHOTO BY DEEP BHULLAR ON PEXELS.
SAINT VINCENT CAPE LIGHTHOUSE. PHOTO BY ALEX VIDIGAL, VIA GETTY IMAGES.

Great Ocean Walk – Victoria, Australia

Victoria, Australia

The Great Ocean Walk stretches along Australia’s rugged southern coast, including the iconic Twelve Apostles cliffs. Hikers traverse rainforests, sandy beaches, and towering limestone formations. Its highlight is the combination of dramatic ocean vistas and native wildlife encounters, offering a truly immersive coastal adventure.

[Learn more](#)

Via Algarviana – Algarve, Portugal

Algarve, Portugal

While primarily inland, sections of the Via Algarviana pass near coastal villages and cliffs, offering glimpses of the Atlantic alongside traditional villages and rolling hills. This trail stands out for blending Portugal’s natural beauty, cultural heritage, and quiet seaside moments.

[Learn more](#)



Coastal hikes around the world offer travelers a rare combination of adventure, serenity, and awe-inspiring beauty. From Ireland’s wind-swept cliffs to Brazil’s tropical beaches, from Menorca’s historic paths to Australia’s rugged southern coast, these trails showcase the diversity of the world’s shorelines. Walking along these paths allows you to slow down, immerse yourself in nature, and experience the pulse of the ocean in ways that stay with you long after the hike ends. Wherever your next adventure takes you, the edge of the world is waiting to be explored.

JET-SET THROUGH

Ancient and Natural Wonders

Jet across continents in a single itinerary where history and nature collide. One moment, you're tracing the footsteps of ancient civilizations; the next, you're standing in remote landscapes that feel untouched by time—an adventure stitched together by speed, luxury, and curiosity.

Natural Wonders

Seychelles – Flamingos and Turquoise Shores

On remote islands of the Seychelles, flamingos wade through crystal waters, and beaches are lined with granite boulders sculpted by the wind. The flora and fauna here feel primordial, offering a serene counterpoint to the bustling human histories elsewhere on the itinerary.

Kenya – Safari and Wilderness

In the heart of East Africa, the Masai Mara National Reserve offers one of the most breathtaking wildlife experiences on Earth. Here, the vast savanna stretches endlessly, alive with lions, elephants, leopards, and over 500 bird species. During migration season, millions of wildebeest thunder across the plains in a spectacle unlike any other. Days are filled with morning and afternoon game drives, while evenings invite you to relax in a luxury tented camp, where the rhythm of the wild lingers just beyond your canvas walls. Guided bush walks bring you closer to the land's subtler wonders, from delicate flora to smaller creatures that complete this rich ecosystem.



Ancient Traditions

Kyoto, Japan – Timeless Temples & Tea Houses

In Kyoto, centuries of ritual unfold in real time: vermilion torii at Fushimi Inari, lantern-lit lanes of Gion, and moss gardens that hush the world to a whisper. Drift through the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, then settle into a ryokan for kaiseki that turns seasonality into art. Old Japan isn't a memory here—it's a daily rhythm.

Udaipur, India – City of Lakes & Light

Udaipur shimmers at golden hour as palaces glow across Lake Pichola and ghats echo with evening prayers. Wander the City Palace, duck into artisan workshops, and barter for textiles in labyrinthine lanes. A sunset boat ride stitches it all together—romance, craft, and royal grandeur reflected on still water.

Cairo, Egypt – Where the Nile Meets the Ancients

Cairo thrums with life: the call to prayer, the bustle of Khan el-Khalili, and feluccas slipping along the Nile at dusk. Stand before the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, then trace pharaonic treasures through the city's museums before exploring Islamic and Coptic quarters. Here, past and present don't merely coexist—they electrify each other.

Every stop on this itinerary is a story waiting to be experienced. From the echoes of ancient civilizations to the raw beauty of untouched landscapes, each moment offers a chance to connect with the world in ways that linger long after the jet lands. It's more than a journey—it's a mosaic of cultures, histories, and natural wonders stitched together by adventure, curiosity, and the thrill of seeing the planet from above and up close. [Learn More](#)

OFF-SEASON

GEMS *Shine in Shoulder Season*

When the crowds thin and the light softens, the world opens up in a new way. Shoulder season—those magical months just before or after peak tourist travel—offers a chance to see iconic destinations at their most authentic. From the ancient streets of Cusco to the sun-drenched cliffs of Santorini, these off-season gems blend stunning scenery, cultural immersion, and a touch of serenity that peak-season visitors rarely experience. Whether you're chasing wildlife, harvest festivals, or quiet contemplation, traveling during the shoulder season lets you connect with a place on your own terms.

1. Cusco, Peru

Why it shines: In April and October, Cusco enjoys milder weather, fewer tourists, and lush green landscapes—ideal for hiking, sightseeing, and experiencing rich local culture.

Read More: [Inca Peru Travel — “What is the best Time to Visit Cusco? 5 Seasons to Consider” Inca Peru Travel.](#)

CUSCO CITY, DURING EVENING. PHOTO BY PAJAROSVOLANDOPHOTOS.
OPPOSITE: DUBROVNIK, CROATIA.

VIEW MORE BY CARMENGABRIELA FROM GETTY IMAGES
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA. PHOTO BY CARMENGABRIELA, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
TOROWEAP OVERLOOK, NORTH RIM, GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA, USA, AT
SUNRISE. PHOTO BY JOECHO-16, VIA GETTY IMAGES PRO.



2. Tuscany, Italy

Why it shines: Autumn transforms Tuscany into a sensory feast—countryside awash in fiery foliage, truffles, chestnuts, wine harvests, cozy festivals, and art in mellower crowds.

Read More: Love From Tuscany — “6 Good Reasons to Travel to Tuscany in Autumn,” [Love From Tuscany](#).

3. Dubrovnik, Croatia

Why it shines: In late fall and winter, the medieval Old Town is nearly crowd-free, UNESCO walks feel personal, and accommodations are much more serene.

Read More: Road is Calling — “Dubrovnik in winter: why it’s much better than in summer” [Dubrovnik in Winter: Why It’s Much Better Than in Summer](#)

4. Santorini, Greece

Why it shines: Shoulder season—especially late September to early November—brings warm but less crowded days, harvest-colored views, easy dining reservations, and dramatic sunsets in peace.

Read More: Real Journey Travels — “The Charm of Autumn in Santorini” [Best Time to Visit Santorini: Ultimate Guide for Perfect Weather and Fewer Crowds in 2025](#)

5. Botswana

Why it shines: November marks a shoulder-season sweet spot—cooler weather, greenery sprouting from first rains, fewer tourists, and vibrant wildlife activity.



Read More: *Fleewinter* — “Five reasons why you should plan a trip to Botswana during the shoulder season” [Fleewinter](#).

6. Iceland

Why it shines: Fall provides the perfect balance—moderate daylight, crisp autumn weather, prime chances to see the Northern Lights, and far fewer crowds than in summer.

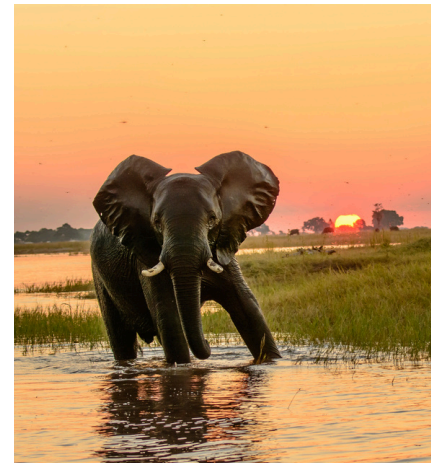
Read More: *Globe Gazers* — “Iceland in the Fall: Complete Guide and Reasons to Visit in Autumn” [Globe Gazers](#).

7. Grand Canyon, USA

Why it shines: Shoulder seasons (fall and spring) mean cooler, safer temperatures, quiet trails, and clear views—perfect for enjoying this natural wonder in peace.

Read More: *OutdoorGuide.com* — “Why You Should Consider Visiting The Grand Canyon During The Shoulder Seasons” [Why You Should Consider Visiting The Grand Canyon During The Shoulder Seasons](#)

Traveling in the shoulder season isn’t just about avoiding crowds—it’s about discovering the rhythms, colors, and experiences that make each destination truly shine. Crisp autumn air, tranquil historic streets, and playful wildlife encounters create moments that stay with you long after the trip ends. From Europe to South America to Africa, these off-season gems prove that sometimes the best time to travel isn’t when everyone else is going—but when the world feels like it’s opening just for you.



Last-Minute Beaches

in the USA

Pack your bag at a moment's notice and discover a coastline that feels like it was made just for you. From sun-drenched Atlantic shores to serene mountain lakes and dramatic Pacific cliffs, the United States is dotted with beaches perfect for spontaneous escapes. Whether you crave quiet reflection, thrilling water sports, or a mix of culture and sand, these destinations offer an unforgettable blend of scenery, experiences, and local charm.

On Florida's Atlantic coast, St. Augustine—America's oldest city—pairs old-world charm with coastal beauty. Cobblestone streets and Spanish colonial architecture lead you toward centuries-old forts, while golden beaches stretch wide under the salty breeze. In New Jersey, Wildwood serves up classic boardwalk bliss, where colorful rides, mini-golf, and saltwater taffy meet miles of flat, sandy shore. Provincetown, perched at the tip of Cape Cod, offers a fusion of arts, dunes, and ocean breezes, with vibrant galleries, rolling sandscapes, and sunsets that paint the horizon.

From rugged north to sun-soaked south, the Pacific coast offers endless escapes. Washington's Ruby Beach stuns first, with driftwood-strewn shores, rugged cliffs, and misty drama. Heading into California, Pismo Beach delivers relaxed Central Coast magic, surfer-friendly waves, and nearby vineyards. Further south, Santa Monica buzzes an iconic pier and oceanfront bike paths. At the southern tip, La Jolla Shores blends gentle surf and tide pools with playful sea lion encounters.

For a wilder edge, North Carolina's Outer Banks offers untamed coastlines dotted with lighthouses and wild horses, while South Padre Island in Texas brings a balance of water sports, dolphin watching, and lively nightlife. Myrtle Beach in South Carolina bursts with boardwalk energy, amusement rides, and parasailing adventures, and Gulf Shores, Alabama, charms with calm waters, fresh Gulf seafood, and family-friendly beaches.

Freshwater escapes shine too—Lake Tahoe's Sand Harbor is an

alpine gem with crystal-clear swimming and kayaking framed by mountain peaks, while Pennsylvania's Presque Isle State Park and New York's Lake George combine sandy shores with trails, wildlife, and boating in scenic lake settings. Newport, Rhode Island, pairs Atlantic elegance with Gilded Age mansions and cliffside walks, and Hawaii's Punalu'u Beach is a jet-black sand paradise where sea turtles bask under the sun. Whether you choose golden sands, volcanic shores, turquoise waves, or tranquil freshwater retreats, the perfect last-minute beach getaway is never far away. Grab your sunscreen, bring a friend or loved one, and let the waves guide you—because sometimes the best vacations are the ones you don't overthink.

FLY v DRIVE

How to Get There

When planning a weekend getaway, deciding whether to hit the road or take a flight can shape your entire trip. Both options have their perks, so it helps to weigh time, cost, and flexibility before you commit.

- **Driving:** Ideal for trips under four hours, road trips give you complete control over your schedule. Skip airport lines, stop when and where you want, and enjoy scenic detours along the way. Gas, tolls, and parking costs can add up, but the freedom and ability to explore at your own pace often outweigh the price.
- **Flying:** Best for journeys over six hours, flying maximizes your time at the destination. Even with security checks, boarding, and baggage retrieval, a flight can save you hours compared with a long drive. Flights can be more expensive when you factor in baggage fees and airport transportation, and schedules are fixed, but the speed and convenience are hard to beat.
- **Cost vs. convenience:** Compare all expenses—fuel, tolls, airport parking, luggage fees, and rental cars. Sometimes the faster option isn't the cheapest.
- **Flexibility vs. structure:** Driving lets you linger, explore, or take detours. Flying keeps you on a strict schedule, which can be good or limiting depending on your style.

Choosing the right mode of travel is about balancing your priorities: adventure and freedom on the road, or efficiency and time saved in the air.



Tucked away in the rolling foothills of the Serra do Caldeirão mountains, Alte is a village that feels suspended in time. Often called the most quintessentially Algarvean village, it offers a serene contrast to the sun-soaked coastal towns that dominate the region. Cobble streets wind between whitewashed houses adorned with vibrant bougainvillea, while the gentle hum of daily village life drifts through the air. There's a rhythm to Alte that invites visitors to slow down, take a deep breath, and truly immerse themselves in a slice of authentic Portugal.

What makes Alte truly special are its natural springs and traditional watermills. The Fonte Grande, a freshwater spring that has supplied the village for centuries, offers a glimpse into the local way of life, where nature and community coexist seamlessly. Here, locals gather to collect water, chat, and relax, just as generations before them have done. The surrounding landscape, dotted with olive groves, cork oak trees, and flowering meadows, invites hikers, photographers, and nature lovers to explore beyond the village center.

ALTE

Escape to Portugal

ARCHITECTURE IN ALTE, PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY ANNA DUDEK, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
OPPOSITE: CHURCH IN ALTE VILLAGE, SOUTHERN PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY ROSSHELEN.
RESTAURANT IN ALTE VILLAGE, SOUTHERN PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY ROSSHELEN.
ALTE VILLAGE, PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY PETER ETCHELLS, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
CACELA VELHA OLD FORTRESS. PHOTO BY MIGUEL HORTA, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
SERRA DA MONCHIQUE, ALGARVE, PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY URF, VIA GETTY IMAGES.
FERRAGUDO VILLAGE, ALGARVE, PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY NISANGHA, VIA GETTY IMAGES PRO.
SALEMA OLD TOWN, ALGARVE, PORTUGAL. PHOTO BY URF, VIA GETTY IMAGES.

Alte's charm extends to its culinary offerings and cultural experiences. Small cafes and family-run restaurants serve regional specialties like grilled sardines, cataplana (a seafood stew), and freshly baked pastries. Each meal is an opportunity to connect with local traditions and flavors that have been carefully preserved over time. Village festivals, often tied to religious or seasonal celebrations, fill the streets with music, dance, and color, offering a chance to witness the Algarve's living heritage firsthand.

For those seeking both relaxation and exploration, Alte provides a perfect balance. Spend your morning wandering

the quiet streets, the afternoon exploring nearby trails, and your evening savoring local cuisine as the sun sets over the Serra do Caldeirão. Every corner of Alte tells a story, from its historic fountains to the artisanal crafts sold by village shops. Visiting this inland gem is not just a trip—it's a sensory journey, a reminder that the Algarve's true magic lies not only along its coastline but also in the tranquil villages tucked into its hills. Whether you're drawn by the peaceful streets, the verdant landscape, or the sense of timelessness, Alte is a destination that captures the heart and invites visitors to linger, explore, and experience Portugal as it once was—and still is today.



PRETTIEST VILLAGES

of the Algarve

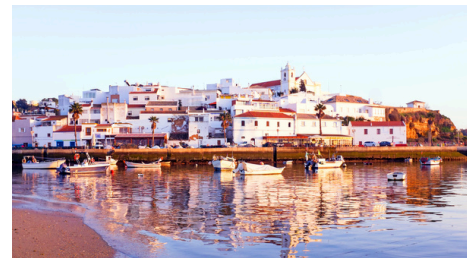
The Algarve is renowned for its stunning coastline, charming villages, and rich cultural heritage. Here are a few of the prettiest:



Cacela Velha – Hilltop charm and panoramic ocean views. [Read more](#)



Monchique – Lush mountains, thermal springs, and hiking trails. [Read more](#)



Ferragudo – Picturesque fishing village with river & ocean vistas. [Read more](#)



Salema – Tranquil west-coast village with cliffs and pastel houses. [Read more](#)



6 SEASIDE EATS

of Triple-D Fame

Coastal roads, salty breezes, and the promise of legendary eats—that’s the kind of adventure that makes your taste buds sit up and pay attention. These six seaside destinations have all earned the Triple-D stamp of approval, and it’s easy to see why. From towering burgers and fresh-off-the-boat seafood to quirky sushi spots, each one pairs local flavor with unforgettable scenery. Follow your appetite, soak in the ocean views, and dive into dishes that have already impressed Guy Fieri himself—these are coastal classics you won’t forget.

Keegan's Seafood Grille – Indian Rocks Beach, FL

A Gulf Coast classic, Keegan's is beloved for its creative seafood dishes and relaxed beachside atmosphere. Chef-owner Cesar Labrador draws on flavors from his world travels, crafting offerings like the blackened grouper sandwich with mango chutney and the celebrated she-crab soup. The restaurant's casual vibe makes it perfect for a laid-back lunch or sunset dinner. Dining here feels like a true taste of Florida's coastal charm, with fresh catches and local ingredients taking center stage.

[Food Network Link](#)

Hodad's – Ocean Beach, CA

Known for its oversized burgers and surfer-friendly atmosphere, Hodad's has been an institution in San Diego since 1973. The walls are adorned with surfboards, photos, and graffiti, reflecting the laid-back local culture. Each burger is built with generous portions and creativity, ensuring a hearty and satisfying meal. Whether you're grabbing a quick bite before hitting the waves or settling in for a casual feast, Hodad's embodies California's playful coastal spirit.

[Food Network Link](#)

Evelyn's Drive In – Tiverton, RI

Tucked along the scenic Nanaquaket Pond, Evelyn's Drive In blends classic Rhode Island charm with inventive twists on seafood. Signature dishes include lobster chow mein and traditional clam chowder, each bursting with local flavor. The drive-in setting evokes nostalgia while offering stunning views of the water. Evelyn's invites diners to savor inventive coastal cuisine in a relaxed, picturesque setting that's perfect for families and casual travelers alike.

[Food Network Link](#)



Santa Cruz Diner – Santa Cruz, CA

A quintessential California diner, Santa Cruz Diner has been serving hearty meals with a friendly smile for decades. Classic breakfast plates, fresh seafood, and generous portions define the menu, while the laid-back atmosphere captures the city's beach town charm. Whether you're fueling up before a surf session or indulging in a leisurely brunch, Santa Cruz Diner is a reliable stop for comfort food with a view. The diner's timeless vibe makes it a must-visit for locals and tourists alike.

[Food Network Link](#)

Voula's Offshore Cafe – Seattle, WA

Since 1975, Voula's Offshore Cafe has been a Northwest institution, blending Greek culinary traditions with local seafood favorites. Perched along Lake Union, the restaurant offers scenic water views alongside generous breakfasts and fresh seafood dishes. The welcoming staff and casual environment make it a neighborhood favorite and a must-stop for visitors exploring Seattle's waterfront. With dishes like lemon-oregano fish and classic Greek breakfast plates, Voula's is a comforting, flavorful experience in the Pacific Northwest.

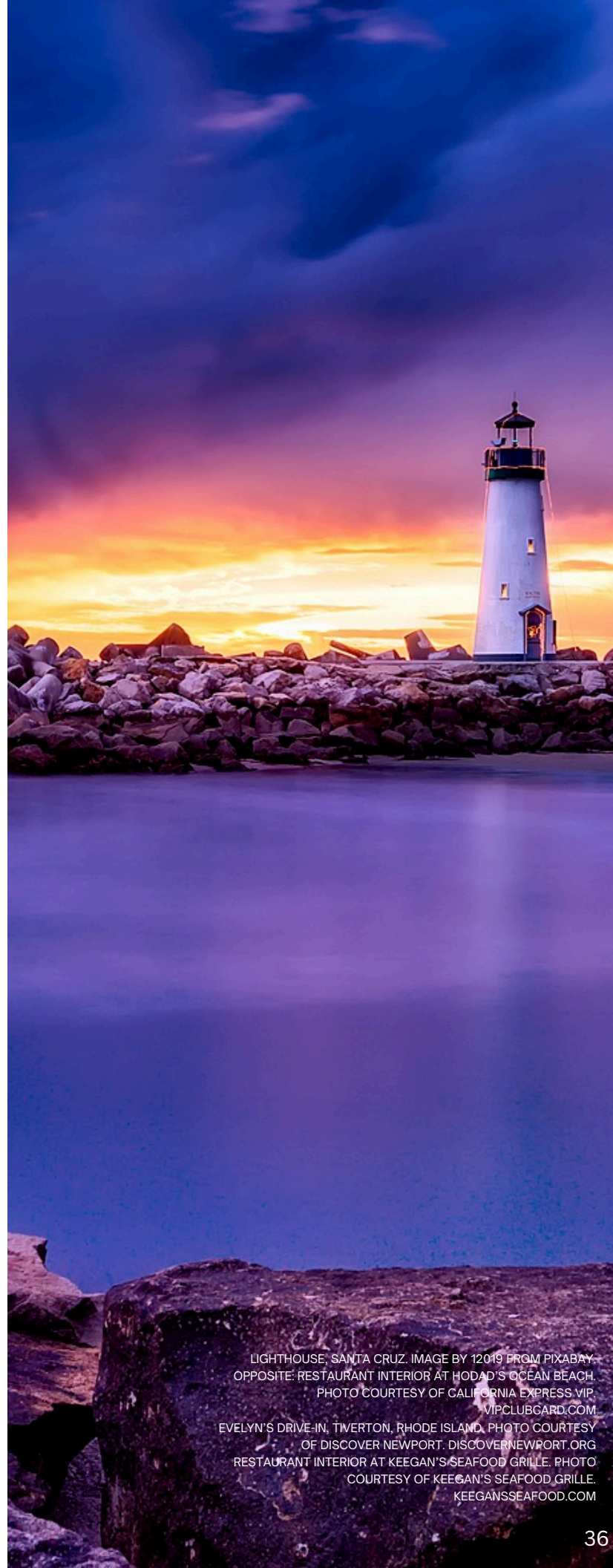
[Food Network Link](#)

Miso Phat Sushi – Kihei, HI

This unassuming spot in a strip mall delivers a standout sushi experience thanks to fish sourced directly from owner Shawn Steadman's boat. Creative rolls like the TNT roll (shrimp tempura topped with ahi poke) and tangy lilikoi ice cream showcase the freshest Hawaiian ingredients in playful, inventive ways. The casual, no-frills interior contrasts with the vibrant flavors, making each bite a revelation. Miso Phat Sushi is a testament to Hawaii's dedication to fresh seafood and inventive culinary craft.

[Food Network Link](#)

Whether it's Florida, California, Hawaii, or the Pacific Northwest, these six seaside spots prove that a little road trip, a salty breeze, and the Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives seal of approval make for unforgettable meals. Each restaurant offers more than just food—it's an experience, a story, and a reason to plan your next coastal adventure. So chase the waves, follow your appetite, and let these Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives-approved gems show you just how delicious a day by the water can be.



LIGHTHOUSE, SANTA CRUZ. IMAGE BY 12019 FROM PIXABAY.
OPPOSITE: RESTAURANT INTERIOR AT HODAD'S OCEAN BEACH.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA EXPRESS VIP.
VIPCLUBGARD.COM
EVELYN'S DRIVE-IN, TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND. PHOTO COURTESY
OF DISCOVER NEWPORT. DISCOVERNEWPORT.ORG
RESTAURANT INTERIOR AT KEEGAN'S SEAFOOD GRILLE. PHOTO
COURTESY OF KEEGAN'S SEAFOOD GRILLE.
KEEGANSSEAFOOD.COM



ICELAND. PHOTO BY ANDRE FILIPE ON UNSPLASH.

Chase the Untamed

Some places make you feel alive simply by standing in them. Vast mountains rise like ancient guardians, black sands stretch endlessly, and the wind carries the raw energy of the planet itself. These landscapes aren't tamed—they challenge you, inspire you, and remind you that there's a world beyond comfort zones waiting to be explored. Step forward, let curiosity lead, and chase the untamed.



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