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Lonely Planet's best travel destinations for 2019 revealed

Sri Lanka, Copenhagen and Piedmont, Italy place in number one spots



Today, Lonely Planet unveils its annual collection of the best travel destinations, trends, journeys and experiences to have in the year ahead. The experts at the world's leading travel authority reveal the top 10 countries, cities, regions and best value places to visit in [Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2019](#).

Sri Lanka – the island opening up to new travellers like never before – claims the coveted spot as the number one country to visit in 2019, while **Germany** places second and **Zimbabwe** takes third. Denmark's "capital of cool", **Copenhagen**, is named the number one city as it boasts a world-renowned food scene and credentials as a design powerhouse, followed by the "Silicon Valley" of China, **Shēnzhèn**, and Serbia's up-and-coming youth and culture capital, **Novi Sad**.

The number one region is the **Piedmont** area of Italy, home to Leonardo Da Vinci and new UNESCO heritage sites. Celebrating 50 years since Woodstock, the USA's **Catskills** in New York came in second, followed by **Northern Peru**. Egypt's **Southern Nile Valley**, **Łódź**, Poland and the USA's **Great Smoky Mountains** are named the top three best value destinations for 2019.

Each year, **Lonely Planet's Best in Travel** lists start with nominations from Lonely Planet's vast community of editors, researchers, locals and influencers, and ultimately are decided and ranked by a panel of judges. The outcome is an eclectic list of destinations with unique, compelling and topical reasons to visit in the year ahead – as well as underlying travel trends to look for. Lonely Planet's experts also select the best **New Openings**, **Places to Stay**, **Food Experiences** and **Attractions for Kids**.

"These are the places to experience in 2019", said Lonely Planet Destination Editor Trisha Ping. "They might be coming into their own, celebrating a once-in-a-lifetime event or simply have been overlooked for too long – whatever the reason, now is the time to plan a trip."

The best-selling book is now in its 14th edition and the landing page, www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel, features tips and videos on visiting each destination as well as a chance to win a trip for two to Copenhagen. Most of the top 10 cities can also be explored with Lonely Planet's [Guides](#) app.

Top 10 Countries

1. Sri Lanka
2. Germany
3. Zimbabwe
4. Panama
5. Kyrgyzstan
6. Jordan
7. Indonesia

8. Belarus

9. São Tomé and Príncipe

10. Belize

Top 10 Regions

1. Piedmont, Italy
2. The Catskills, USA
3. Northern Peru



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4. The Red Centre, Australia
5. Scottish Highlands
6. Russian Far East, Russia
7. Gujarat, India
8. Manitoba, Canada
9. Normandy, France
10. Elqui Valley, Chile

3. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, USA
4. Maldives
5. Houston, USA
6. Argentina
7. Bangladesh
8. Albania
9. Ecuador
10. Slovenia

Top 10 Cities

1. Copenhagen, Denmark
2. Shēnzhèn, China
3. Novi Sad, Serbia
4. Miami, Florida, USA
5. Kathmandu, Nepal
6. Mexico City, Mexico
7. Dakar, Senegal
8. Seattle, USA
9. Zadar, Croatia
10. Meknès, Morocco

Best Value Destinations

1. Southern Nile Valley, Egypt
2. Łódź, Poland

The Travel Edit

- Best New Openings
- Best New Places to Stay
- Best New Food Experiences
- Best New Attractions for Kids

Top Trends

- Dark Skies
- Augmented Attractions
- Electric Road Trips
- My DNA and Me
- Off the Touristed Path

Notes to Media:

- **Embargo:** 23 October 2018 00:01 PM BST
- **Landing page:** www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel
- **Images:** Top 10 countries, cities, regions and best value lists available for media use
- **Interviews:** Lonely Planet spokespeople available for online or broadcast interviews
- **Behind-the-scenes:** www.lonelyplanet.com/blog/2018/10/23/making-best-in-travel
- **Trip competition:** Chance to win a trip for two to Copenhagen, in association with Booking.com, Viator and World Nomads
- **Hashtag:** #BestinTravel

About Lonely Planet:

Lonely Planet is a leading travel media company and the world's number one travel guidebook brand, providing both inspiring and trustworthy information for every kind of traveller since 1973. Over the past four decades, we've printed over 145 million guidebooks and grown a dedicated, passionate global community of travellers. Lonely Planet can be found on lonelyplanet.com, mobile, video and in 14 languages, nine international magazines, armchair and lifestyle books, ebooks and more. Visit us at lonelyplanet.com and join our 14 million followers on Facebook (facebook.com/lonelyplanet), Twitter ([@lonelyplanet](https://twitter.com/lonelyplanet)), Instagram (instagram.com/lonelyplanet) and Snapchat ([@lonely.planet](https://snapchat.com/@lonelyplanet)).