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### For media requests, please contact:

Natalie Nicolson - US | [natalie.nicolson@lonelyplanet.com](mailto:natalie.nicolson@lonelyplanet.com)  
Rebecca Law - EMEA | [rebecca.law@lonelyplanet.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.law@lonelyplanet.co.uk)  
Adam Bennett - APAC | [adam.bennett@lonelyplanet.com.au](mailto:adam.bennett@lonelyplanet.com.au)

## Lonely Planet experts name top 5 travel trends for 2019

Today, travel media authority Lonely Planet announces the top five travel trends for next year in [Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2019](#).

Every year when Lonely Planet's travel experts are looking ahead at upcoming experiences and destinations on the rise, they identify underlying themes that epitomise what's new and trending upwards in travel. **Best in Travel 2019** predicts the trends that will shape the industry next year so travellers know what to expect. The top five trends in 2019 include:

- **Dark Skies:** With 80% of the planet's night sky obscured by light pollution, many are seeking out experiences to connect with the universe above. Astrotourism reached new heights when seven million people across the US travelled to view the total solar eclipse in 2017. Similar numbers are expected in much of South America for the eclipse on July 2, 2019.

Thanks to growing awareness, new dark-sky designated parks, communities and observatories are opening to the public in 2019. From stargazing tours, parties and cruises to yurt stays and hotel specials, it's easier than ever for travellers to learn about and experience the stars, planets, auroras and other astronomical phenomena.

Top Spots: Southwest USA; Japan; Northern Britain; Scandinavia; Stewart Island, New Zealand; Mauna Kea, Hawaii; Canary Islands

- **Augmented Attractions:** The tech that allows users to have experiences from afar (virtual reality) and that superimposes images over real life (augmented reality), has found its foothold in the travel industry and beyond. It's now possible to get an immersive 360-degree experience anywhere in the world – and even on Mars – from home.

Many museums, destinations and tourist attractions are embracing its potential, like the chance to look at Paris as it was in 1789 via a telescope, or scale the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa, without the vertigo or even a plane ticket to Dubai. Now that VR and AR have hit the mainstream, the technology will only get better with time.

- **Road Trips Go Electric:** Carbon footprint-conscious travellers will find next year that more destinations and car rental companies are making the leap to electric vehicles. Public charging stations are cropping up across classic road trip routes, and countries are rolling out ambitious plans to install more in rural areas to allow for eco-friendly cross-country travel. While the idea might cause anxiety about being out of range, online maps, resources and apps can be used to plan in advance and while on the road. Seeking out a charger may also lead electric road trippers to places unknown, and allow them to slow down and recharge themselves.

Top 10 Road Trips: West Coast Green Highway, North America; National Tourist Route, Hardangervidda, Norway; Barbados; Madeira, Portugal; United Arab Emirates and Oman; Golden Route, Japan; North Coast 500, Scotland; Queensland's Electric Super Highway, Australia; Route



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66, USA; Black Forest, Germany

- **My DNA and Me:** Innovations in genetic testing – such as at-home DNA kits – and access to historical records have made it possible for the average citizen to learn more about their family heritage. That’s inspired many to retrace the places, people and cultures of their ancestral past by journeying back to their roots. Whether visiting a new country or a familiar destination, these trips are bound to lead to new discoveries and perspectives – and it’s a great excuse to travel whether or not DNA test results come as a surprise. In **Best in Travel 2019**, six travellers from Lonely Planet’s community share their own experiences exploring their origins.
- **Getting Off the Touristed Path:** The news headlines about more and more popular destinations being overrun by tourists might be discouraging – but it just means travellers should consider their impact and be conscious about where they go and when. Sustainable travel can mean staying in an underrated neighbourhood, visiting popular spots during off-season, exploring alternative destinations or discovering lesser-known places. With the right planning and research, travel can still be a force for good.

Top Alternative Sights and Underrated Destinations: Humayun’s Tomb, India; Canada’s National Parks; The Faroe Islands, Denmark; Toronto, Canada; Ljubljana, Slovenia

Lonely Planet’s **Best in Travel 2019’s** Top Trends list can be found in the best-selling book now in its 14th edition and on [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com).

### Notes to Media:

- **Embargo:** 23 October 2018 00:01 PM BST
- **Landing page:** [www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel)
- **Images:** Top Trends images available for media use by request
- **Interviews:** Lonely Planet spokespeople available for online or broadcast interviews
- **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](http://lonelyplanet.com), mobile, video and in 14 languages, nine international magazines, armchair and lifestyle books, ebooks and more. Visit us at [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com) and join our 14 million followers on Facebook ([facebook.com/lonelyplanet](https://facebook.com/lonelyplanet)), Twitter ([@lonelyplanet](https://twitter.com/lonelyplanet)), Instagram ([instagram.com/lonelyplanet](https://instagram.com/lonelyplanet)) and Snapchat ([@lonely.planet](https://snapchat.com/@lonely.planet)).