

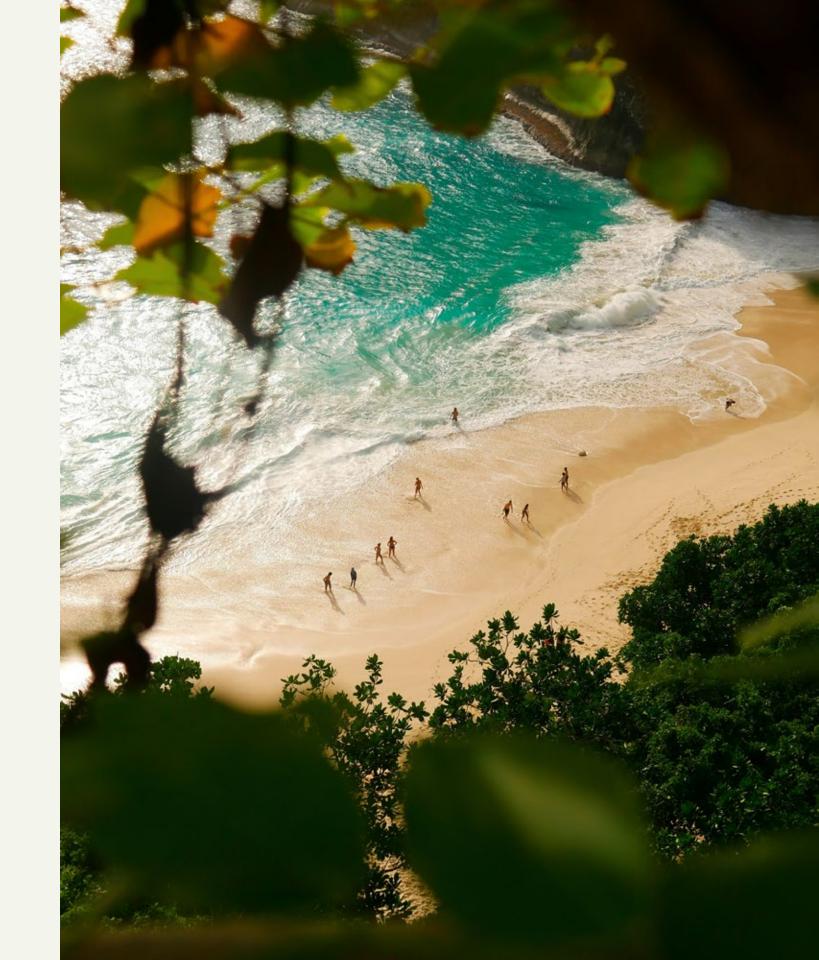
# YOUR TOP SOLO TRAVEL DESTINATIONS FOR 2020

#### **EDITOR'S PICKS**

From Ecuador to India, our trip experts have rounded up their favourite destinations. Could one of them be yours too?

Here at Flash Pack HQ, we've curated a series of adventures that allow you to travel like you, whenever you want. Gone are the days of waiting around for friends who may never join.

Find an adventure that suits you, with like-minded solo travellers in their 30s and 40s who are ready to go.





# **COUNTRY PROFILE**

Spain is one of the most diverse countries in Europe, both in terms of its landscapes and cities. The Pyrenees is a lush terrain popular with hikers and skiers alike, while Montserrat in Catalonia attracts rockclimbers from far and wide. Nearby, the Mediterranean Coast offers some of Spain's most beautiful and serene beaches.

If you're looking for a cultured escape, head to Andalusia to encounter Spain's Moorish heritage, Seville for passionate flamenco and Madrid for characterful, tapas-filled streets. Travel with us in Spain, and we'll show you the very best of Andalusia and Madrid in just over a week.

HISTORICAL CITIES,
EPIC MOUNTAINS AND THE FOOD!
SPAIN IS ONE OF THOSE
COUNTRIES I KEEP
RETURNING TO,
TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
Lucy, trip expert

#### TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. The Alhambra, Granada
- 2. La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona
- 3. Moorish heritage in Andalusia
- 4. Hike the Camino de Santiago
- 5. Camping in the Pyrenees



#### WHEN TO GO?

High season runs
throughout the summer
months, bringing hot
temperatures in central
and southern Spain.
The shoulder seasons
of spring and autumn
offer milder weather with
fewer tourists.





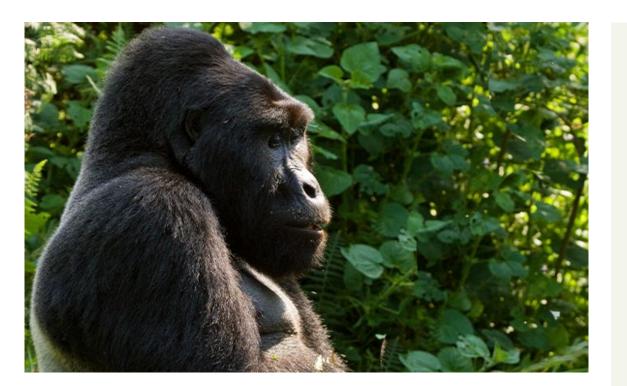




#### FOOD & DRINK

- 1. Seafood paella
- 2. Chocolate y churros in Madrid
- 3. Pintxos in San Sebastian
- 4. Wine-tasting in La Rioja
- 5. Sherry in Jerez de la Frontera





#### WILDLIFE

- 1. Mountain gorillas in the Virungas
- 2. Chimpanzees in Nyungwe National Park
- 3. Lions, elephants, hippos, zebras and giraffes in Akagera National Park
- 4. 700 rare bird species across the country
- 5. Golden monkeys in the Virunga

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FOLLOWING THE TRAILS OF
MOUNTAIN GORILLAS AT DAWN
WAS A MOMENT UNLIKE ANYTHING
ELSE I'VE EXPERIENCED.
IT WAS TRULY UNIQUE.
David, trip expert

### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

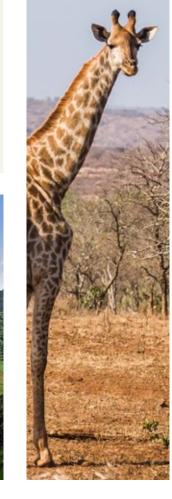
Wildlife-lover? Our trip to Rwanda will delight you. The Virunga Mountains, spread across five volcanoes, offer a rich ecosystem utterly unique to East Africa. Crossing the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, this is the only place in the world where you'll encounter the endangered mountain gorilla. Majestic, gentle and surprisingly human-like, observing these creatures in their natural habitat is a special experience.

Head to Nyungwe National Park, and you'll encounter chimpanzees swinging through the canopy; in Akagera, you'll find lions, elephants, zebras and giraffes roaming the savannah, many of which have been recently re-introduced to Rwanda.

#### TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. Gorilla trekking in the Virungas
- 2. Camping on an island in Lake Kivu
- 3. Hiking in Nyungwe National Park
- 4. Safari in Akagera National Park
- 5. Rwandan heritage in Kigali







# WHEN TO GO?

Rwanda has a highland tropical climate. Dry season runs from June to September and December to February, making this the ideal time to visit. Wet season occurs from March to May, and October to November.



#### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

From Petra to Wadi Rum,
Jordan's landscapes evoke a
sense of mystery and wonder
- and our popular Jordan
adventure will introduce you to
the country's best experiences.
Think red rolling dunes and saltrich seas, Biblical mountains
and Roman ruins. To travel in
Jordan is to uncover an ancient
frontier land where east meets
west.

Jordan's top sight is undoubtedly Petra, an ancient Nabatean city carved into the pink sandstone cliffs. One of the most magical travel moments out there, in our opinion, is uncovering the ancient city by candlelight, with the atmospheric strings of live Bedouin music providing the perfect soundtrack. Floating in the Dead Sea is also a must, as is canyoning through the ravines of Wadi Mujib.

FEW EXPERIENCES ARE AS
SPECIAL AS SEEING PETRA
LIT UP BY CANDLELIGHT.
IT REALLY TAKES
YOUR BREATH AWAY
Jessie, trip expert

# TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. The Rose City of Petra
- 2. Floating in the Dead Sea
- 3. Wadi Rum Desert
- 4. Ancient heritage in Amman
- 5. Diving in the Red Sea



#### WHEN TO GO?

Between March and May, Jordan enjoys mild weather with warm days and cooler nights, making this the best time to visit. The weather from June to August can be unbearably hot, and the winter months bring rain and snow.





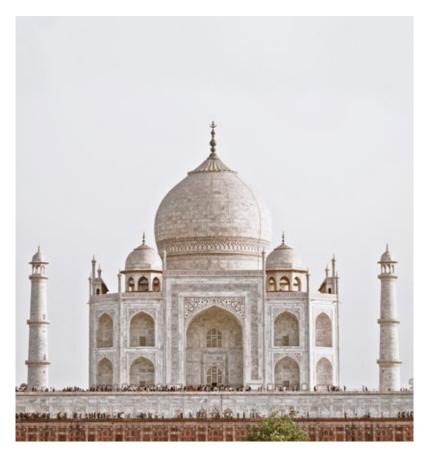




#### FOOD & DRINK

- 1. Mansaf
- 2. Fresh falafel
- 3. Kunafa
- 4. Mujadara
- 5. Maqluba





#### WHEN TO GO?

India has a tropical climate, alternating between dry and monsoon season. From November to March, the weather is warm and pleasant, and this is also high season. From April to June, India reaches scorching temperatures, before the monsoon rains of July to October.





#### FOOD & DRINK

- 1. Fish molee in Kerala
- 2. Appam and stew
- 3. Dhansak
- 4. Rogan Josh in Kashmir
- 5. Aloo paratha in Punjab



I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED
A COUNTRY AS CAPTIVATING
AS INDIA. ITS RANGE
OF CUISINE, CHARMING
PEOPLE AND SPECTACULAR
LANDSCAPES MAKE IT AN
UNRIVALLED DESTINATION.
Liam, trip expert

### TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. Taj Mahal
- 2. The backwaters of Kerala
- 3. Beach life in Goa
- 4. Historical sightseeing in Delhi
- 5. Tiger safaris in Ranthambore



#### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

From the northern reaches of the Himalayas to the shores of Kerala, India's landscapes are vast, diverse and rich. Its cities offer just as much to be savoured, too, whether you're diving into the vibrant chaos of Delhi or admiring the colonial grandeur of Kolkata.

Yes, India is energetic, exciting and (at times) maddening. But you'll also find areas where it's remarkably serene, like the southern state of Kerala, the location of one of our most chilled adventures. Overlooking the Arabian Sea, Kerala is home to golden beaches, lush mangroves and enchanting backwaters which host a secluded world of their own. This is a place to immerse yourself in yoga and relaxed coastal living; where city life will soon seem like a distant dream.





#### TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. Yosemite National Park
- 2. San Francisco
- 3. Wine-tasting in Sonoma
- 4. Sequoia National Park
- 5. Lake Tahoe



# WHEN TO GO?

High season in California runs from June to August during the summer months. Spring is also a fantastic time to visit, with milder but pleasant weather. Autumn / Fall is the best time to visit California's vineyards, coinciding with harvest season.



### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

California is all about nature on a breathtaking scale, and whether it's wine or wilderness you're after, our trips to the region offer something for everyone. From the giant redwoods and colossal waterfalls of Yosemite National Park, to the worldfamous vineyards of Sonoma and Napa, this is a landscape that just keeps giving.

If it's urban energy and innovation you're after, you'll find it in generous measure in San Francisco. A city that has made a tradition of shaking up conventions, SF has been a pioneer on everything from social movements to tech. Its location on the Pacific Coast, just a short drive from Yosemite and Sequoia National Park, offer yet more adventures to be had.



#### **BEST VINEYARDS TO VISIT**

- 1. Ram's Gate Winery
- 2. Chateau Montelena
- 3. Stag's Leap Wine Cellars
- 4. Martinelli Winery
- 5. Hanzell Vineyards

YOSEMITE IS INCREDIBLE.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW VAST
EVERYTHING IS UNTIL YOU GET
THERE, FROM THE TREES TO THE
WATERFALLS.

Tiffany, trip expert



#### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

With three trips to Ecuador, we've got something to suit you whatever your style of adventure.

Few countries offer the kind of natural diversity you'll find in Ecuador. The tropical Amazon Rainforest, an ecosystem like no other; pristine Andean highlands with snowfall all year round; the Galapagos Islands, home to a range of species you won't see anywhere else in the world.

The beautifully-preserved cities of Quito and Cuenca recall Ecuador's Spanish heritage, with their 17th-century cathedrals and monasteries. Yet travel deeper into the Andes and you'll find yourself in a world of pre-Colombian traditions and indigenous heritage; a far cry from the colonial legacy but just as enduring.

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THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS
ARE LIKE NOWHERE ELSE
I'D EVER BEEN TO.
IMAGINE WALKING UP
TO GIANT TORTOISES AND
SWIMMING WITH SEA
LIONS, SURROUNDED BY
INCREDIBLE LANDSCAPES.
Stefano, trip expert

#### TOP ATTRACTIONS

- 1. The Galapagos Islands
- 2. Cotopaxi National Park
- 3. Trekking in the Amazon Basin
- 4. Explore Quito Old Town
- 5. Cuenca's historical sights



#### WHEN TO GO?

High season runs from
June to September, with
warm temperatures that
vary depending on where
you are in the country.
October and November
see temperatures cool
off, and December to
May coincides with the
wet season.









#### WILDLIFE

- 1. Giant tortoises
- 2. Marine iguanas
- 3. Galapagos sea lion
- 4. Galapagos penguin
- 5. Darwin's finch

