



The 19 Best Places to Go in 2019

19 PHOTOS

by CNT EDITORS
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From Bhutan to Belize—with a stop in Egypt along the way.



There's a phrase we like to use at *Traveler* to describe certain destinations: "It's having a moment." It comes up a lot—that near-impossible-to-pin-down, can't-put-our-thumb-on-it logic as to why you should visit somewhere, now. We feel an urgent need to get to Namibia; to visit Japan before the crowds do in 2020; to return to Egypt, finally. Travel can be a meaningful way to be an ambassador. So do your part: These 19 editor-endorsed destinations—vetted by editors from both *Traveler* U.S. and *Traveller* U.K.—are the best places to go in 2019.



Getty

Chengdu, China

Chengdu's tourist lure has long centered on two Chinese clichés: giant pandas and hotpot. The Sichuanese capital is home to the world's largest concentration of those doe-eyed bears, and its cuisine has been ravenously exported worldwide. Yet there's nowhere better to glimpse the future of New China than here, the Middle Kingdom's coolest city. Domestically, it has a reputation for locals who are both laid-back and cosmopolitan—it was on the Silk Road, after all. In a country where the LGBT population is often invisible, **Chengdu is a rare, rainbow-colored exception**. Come here to experience the cutting edge of contemporary Chinese culture: Check out the Higher Brothers, a local rap group at the vanguard of the emerging domestic hip-hop scene, and the city's independent boutiques, like the months-old Kerry RC, more adventurous than their coastal counterparts. Head to the Eastern Suburb Memory complex for an impressive roster for fashion and art; some of those artists double up as tattooists, making Chengdu's adventurously inked millennials strolling around the new Tai Koo Li luxury mall, the center of the country's new tattoo culture. Stay at the **Temple House** next to that mall, and book dinner at the Bridge, a Neri & Hu–designed cocktail bar and restaurant inside a converted walkway that spans the local river. —

Mark Ellwood