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It's always an exciting time when we put together our list of destinations for the new year. We start our list of the best places to go in 2020 by surveying our well-traveled staff, and then our hyper-connected network of writers based all over the world. We look for the big reasons to visit destinations: The Olympics in Japan and the World Expo in Dubai are two major ones in 2020, but there are also smaller, surprising ones, such as the 800th birthday of a stunning Gothic cathedral or a new museum dedicated to African American music.

We aim to compile a list that is geographically diverse but also has points of interest for every traveler, whether you'll fly for unparalleled stargazing, gorilla spotting in the wild, or shopping in Tangier. We know that you're

using this list throughout the year to plan your trips (frankly, we are too), so we vary the types of destinations on here, from summer escapes like western Michigan to far-flung locales like southeastern Australia. If your 2020 goal is to only travel to sunny islands, we've got you covered with this list.

Need more inspiration on a month-by-month basis? Check out our recommendations for where to go in January. After all, the best part of starting a new year might just be the endless possibilities for travel—where you'll go, whom you'll go with, and how those trips will change the way you see the world.



Dominica

Although Hurricane Maria made landfall in 2017, its impact is still felt throughout the Caribbean. The tiny, lush island of Dominica—located between Guadeloupe and Martinique in the Eastern Caribbean—sustained intense damage and remains one of the world's most vulnerable places in the face of climate change. To help protect the island from future storms, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit appeared at the United Nations four days after Hurricane Maria and declared that Dominica would become the first climate-resilient country in the world. To achieve this goal by 2030, the island is banning single-use plastics and Styrofoam; harnessing the renewable energy of the country's geothermal, hydro, and solar resources; developing sustainable fisheries; and realigning and improving roads to resist flooding and other damage.

This is all in the name of rebranding Dominica as the destination of choice for adventure and nature lovers. More than just sand and surf, the island's natural highlights include the world's second-largest boiling lake, natural hot springs, volcanoes, secluded pools at the bottom of towering waterfalls, more than 300 miles of trails in pristine rain forest, and clear waters ideal for snorkeling and diving that are home to the world's only year-round resident sperm whale population.

The island has also upgraded amenities to encourage more travelers to visit. The five-star Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica (one of Dominica's few true beach hotels) opened in October 2019, and the Anichi Resort & Spa, part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, will open in 2020. Romantic ecologges Secret Bay and Jungle Bay

both reopened this year following major rebuilding, and two new developments were recently announced: Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort & Spa will be nestled in the jungle of the Roseau Valley, making it Dominica's first luxury inland resort; and Tranquility Beach, a Curio Collection by Hilton, will be a 73-room resort with access to two beaches. Flight options are also improving. Air Antilles added more seasonal winter flights from Martinique and Guadalupe, and Silver Airways has started daily flights to Dominica from San Juan, Puerto Rico. —Devorah Lev-Tov



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