

12 Little-Known

Bucket List Destinations

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Welcome! Thank you for stopping by Jen on a Jet Plane and for picking up for this guide. You have just taken your first step to traveling more, and I could not be more excited to join you as you kick off your voyage.

We could all use a little more adventure in our lives, and it's my goal to help you find it.

Everyone knows about lavender fields in the South of France or The Empire State Building in New York City, but how many people know where you can dive in between continental plates (Silfra, Iceland), or the only place you can tour the equator line (Quito, Ecuador)?

Part of the fun of traveling is wandering outside the box. So, in the spirit of seeing something new, I've compiled a list of 12 little-known bucket list destinations around the world to inspire your future travels.

Of those listed, I've been to the first 8, and you can find more detailed coverage on my website. The last 4 locations are still on my wish list and are, luckily for you, remain relatively well-kept secrets.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of destinations, but rather a sampling of all the jaw-dropping beauty and wonder this world has to offer.

I encourage you to get out and explore more. Whether you're traveling solo, with a group or with a significant other, you will always remember the memories you made while traveling. It's an incredible way to both bond with others and find yourself.

Start planning your next adventure today! Any of the following are great places to start.



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1) Into the Volcano in Iceland

The Thrihnukagigur Volcano in Iceland is the only place in the world where you can enter a preserved magma chamber. Descend 120 meters and find out what it's like to journey to the center of the earth.

2) Antelope Canyon in the USA

Located on Navajo territory, Antelope Canyon is most crowded in the spring and summer months, when guests try to witness sun rays shining in through the canyon midday. The geology and colors of Upper and Lower Antelope Canyon are available to be appreciated year-round, however, and are a photographer's dream.

3) Dive the underwater museum in Mexico

The Museo Subacuatico de Arte (MUSA) in Cancun, Mexico is one of a handful of sites in the world where you can dive an underwater museum. The figures (including a Volkswagen Beetle) were submerged in 2009, so today you can see coral and sea life thriving around them. You don't need a dive certification to go under, and the view is far better than any you'd get from snorkeling.

4) Swing off the end of the world in Ecuador

Ecuador is awesome. It's a budget traveler's best friend, with cross-country transportation starting at \$3 and high adrenaline activities for $\frac{1}{3}$ of the price of other countries, like \$30 rappelling and bungee jumping excursions. The swing off the end of the world is no exception, offering \$1 admission and a "tip as you will" policy to the gentleman pushing riders all day.





5) Visit a real-life GoT location in Meteora, Greece

Everyone knows the Greek islands and Athens, but just 5 hours north of the capital city lies Meteora, Greece, a real-life Game of Thrones location and home to 6 working monasteries. Don't miss the moussaka here, it's homemade and the best I had in Greece.

6) Hike Huayna Picchu in Peru

Since walking around Machu Picchu is now restricted, why not go above it instead? The Huayna Picchu mountain is immediately adjacent to Machu Picchu and offers amazing morning views of the world wonder. Admittance is limited to 200 people twice a day, and I recommend going with the first group at 8am so you can witness the ruins appear as the fog lifts.

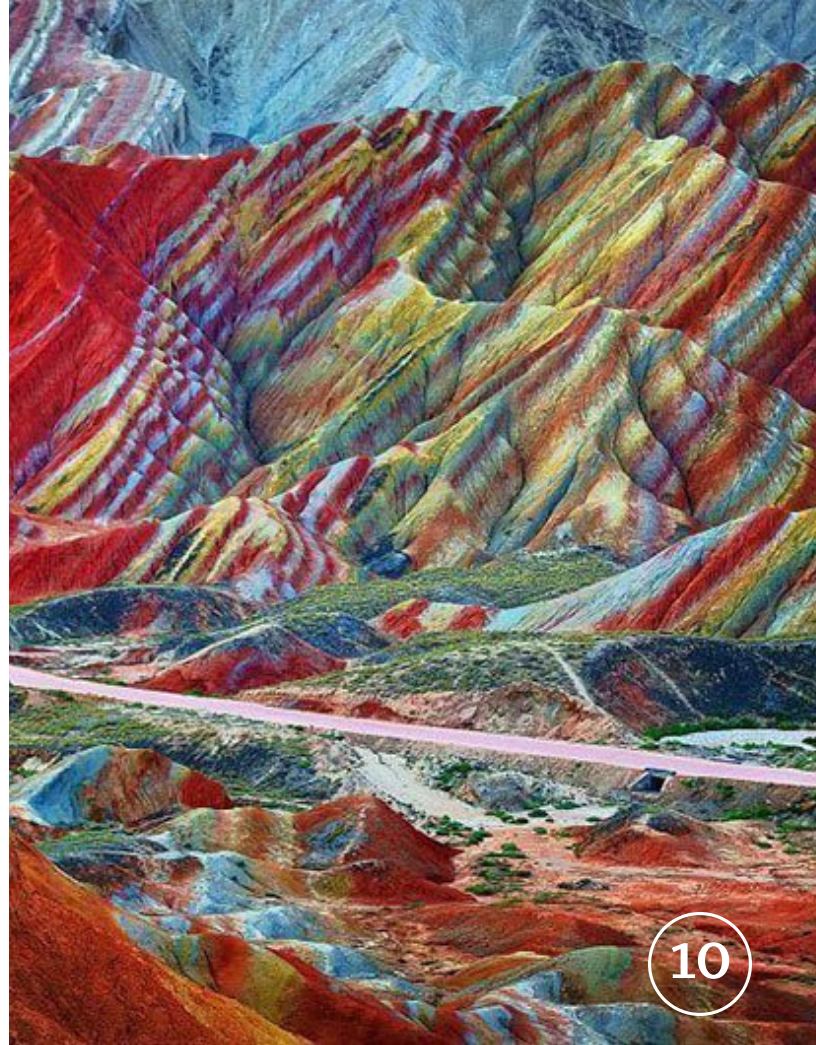
7) Swim with sea turtles in Aruba

Everyone thinks of flamingos when they think of Aruba, but did you know flamingos aren't even native to the island? They're paid for by a resort for that resort's private island only. Hang out with the locals and swim with sea turtles instead. They're as prevalent in the waters of Aruba as shallow shipwrecks.

8) Fusterlandia in Cuba

Riding a classic car in Cuba is a lot of fun, but learning about Cuba's people and culture is even better. Fusterlandia is an outdoor art gallery made of mosaic tile and recycled materials. It is the culmination of a lifetime of work by Jose Fuster, the artist and live-in resident of the property. If you're lucky, he'll be home and happy to discuss his work with you.





9) Glowworm Caves in New Zealand

Image source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAUQqYGtHQo>

The Waitomo Glowworm Caves in New Zealand is another place that looks like it's out of this world. The worms light up, like something out of the movie "Avatar," and guests cruise through an underground river on a small boat. Note that another naturally glowing place is the bioluminescent bay in Vieques, where I had the pleasure of visiting but couldn't quite capture the magic on my phone or camera.

10) Rainbow mountains in China

Image source: <http://www.chinatopix.com/articles/78660/20160304/secret-behind-rainbow-mountains-china.htm>

China's Zhangye Danxia Landform Geological Park puts Peru's rainbow mountains to shame. Formed over the course of 50 million years, they look like a melted crayon box and, at times, funfetti cake. The Great Wall is cool, but you don't see mountains like this every day.

11) Pink Lakes in Mexico

Image source: <http://www.yucatan-holidays.com/destinations/5-sites-to-discover-in-the-mexican-caribbean/attachment/ria-lagartos-biosphere-616/>

Speaking of things you don't see every day, this cotton candy lake in the Yucatan Peninsula proves there's more to Cancun than just Spring Break. In fact, on a one day road trip from the city you can find Mayan ruins, a colonial city and the pink waters of Rio Lagartos.

12) Kochia Hill in Japan

Image source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/135459901266338097/>

Anyone who's ever read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss will see an immediate resemblance to truffula trees. Anyone who never read "The Lorax" and missed out on an essential part of their childhood will still enjoy seeing these cool shaped trees in Japan.

