

The 15 Best Places to Travel in May



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Spring kicks into high gear this month, and travelers are ready to go the distance.

ALEX SCHECHTER
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The tail-end of spring promises warm, travel-friendly weather, beautiful flower blooms, top-down road trips and famous sporting events like the Kentucky Derby. Basically, it's the perfect time to shake off any lingering winter frost and get out of town.

While many travelers are interested in seeing what spring looks like in a different part of the United States — say, the rolling plains of Montana, for example or a [firefly-filled forest](#) in South Carolina — others are itching for a long-haul getaway. From [jungle triathlons](#) to a [three-week light and music festival](#) in Australia, some of the most memorable trips you can take this month can be found halfway around the world. Just don't forget to pack a [comfy pair of walking shoes](#): this is no time to hide indoors.

Indeed, the best places to travel in May are heavy on action, with a backdrop of breezy coastal drives and contemplative forest retreats. Meanwhile, if it's a new city you're looking to discover, consider a long weekend in Shanghai, which marks the season with extravagant new hotels and unexpected daytrips.

Whether you're a nature lover or a culture junkie, May is a time for pushing new boundaries. To figure out where you should head this month, read on.



Shanghai, China

With a new focus on high-design properties, China's poster child metropolis continues its evolution as the go-to city for luxury, style, and world-class dining. Pierre Gagnaire's [boat-shaped bar](#) inside the new [Capella Shanghai](#) is just one example of the high-caliber venues now saturating the center (several other five-star properties, like [Middle House](#) and [Bulgari](#), are also set to open this spring). Meanwhile, Shanghai's subtropical monsoon climate means mid-May is the sweet spot for mild, pleasant weather that's in between the rainy season and the oppressively hot summer—perfect conditions for a daytrip to [nearby Suzhou](#), whose enchanting canals earned it the nickname 'the Venice of China.'