



Hostelworld reveals the top 18 destinations for young travellers in 2018

Hostelworld, the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social travel experiences, has scoured 2017 booking data to uncover the hottest destinations for 2018.

Based on the destinations that were visited the most in 2017, the ones that have seen the biggest increases in demand, and other top picks from the experts, the *Top 18 for 2018* list features the best destinations for young travellers next year.

From established favourites like Spain, Thailand and the USA, to those increasing in demand such as Nicaragua, Israel and South Africa, the Top 18 for 2018 list has something for everyone.

- **Iceland** – home to the Blue Lagoon, geysers and Bjork this tiny island nation is still relatively undiscovered to travellers at large
- **Israel** – 2017 saw people flocking to Israel with bookings up over 60% to this country that seamlessly blends the ancient and the modern
- **Scotland** – with it's stunning landscapes, Scotland slides into the top 18 most popular global destinations for any UK resident looking to travel closer to home
- **Croatia** – whether you spend summer days spent basking on the sands of the Dalmatian coast, or re-enacting your favourite Game of Thrones scenes without any shame is up to you
- **Vietnam** – Vietnam is a firm favourite among travellers – to catch a glimpse of the heart of this vibrant country book your trip to coincide with one of the many lunar festivals
- **South Africa** – play with penguins in Cape Town, surf in the warm Pacific Ocean in Durban or seek out the big five on safari, each year more and more people venture to this complex and beautiful nation. Bookings to the country grew by over 50% in the last year alone
- **Spain** – retaining its spot as the most visited destination for the second year, Spain has the perfect combination of quiet villages, and party capitals



- **USA** – climbing one place from five to four when looking at global bookings, America continues to be a popular destination for global travellers. Visit the city that never sleeps or the sleep under the stars as you explore the Grand Canyon and much more besides
- **Colombia** – dive into the nightlife of Bogota when you visit Colombia and discover why this city was once named the UNESCO City of Music
- **Sri Lanka** – an island nation home to a wide variety of cultures, languages and people that is relatively undiscovered to many people travelling to South East Asia
- **Thailand** – the first port of call on many a South East Asian voyage of personal discovery, Thailand is number three in global bookings growing in popularity every year
- **Philippines** – immerse yourself in the bustling city of Manila before leaving the entire world behind you on the island of Boracay
- **Nicaragua** – this Central American country boasts stunning beaches on two oceans and pristine jungle in the countries interior. Bookings to this paradise soared 87% in the last year as word spread amongst travellers looking for something new
- **Guatemala** – another undiscovered gem in Central America that is unlikely to stay so for long as bookings to this mix of ancient Mayan ruins, Spanish colonial history and modern day skyscrapers
- **Cambodia** – the Angkor Wat temples continue to draw people from across the globe to marvel at their splendour but doesn't mean you should miss out on the modern world too, the Aeon Mall is the perfect place to indulge in some pure retail therapy
- **Nepal** – high above the rest of the world, fertile plains nestle under the giants of the Himalayas. Following the devastating earthquake in 2015 the Nepal-Tibet border is once again open to travellers
- **Mexico** – Mexico city sprawls and grows before your very eyes, a place where you can discover world class museums, galleries and architecture colliding with ancient history
- **Portugal** – Lisbon is the home of hostels, their unique blend of nightlife, passion and a love of life has lead people to feel like they've come home even if they've never visited before. Be warned the nightlife starts late so be prepared to see the sunrise and make the most of your siesta time

Marek Mossakowski, Global Head of Brand at Hostelworld, said:

"Travelling is all about getting the balance right between old and new – not being afraid to try out intriguing new places and experiences, while also indulging in the established destinations that are the most popular for a reason. The new year represents a new start, and what better way to find out more about yourself than sharing unique experiences with amazing people in truly incredible places."

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About Hostelworld

Hostelworld, the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social experiences, inspires passionate travellers to see the world, meet new people and come back with extraordinary stories to tell. Hostelworld customers are not your average tourists; they crave unique experiences that Hostelworld facilitates with the best choice of hostels around the world. It's the social nature of hostels that turbo-charges their global adventures and empowers them to Meet the World.

Hostelworld has more than nine million reviews across 35,000 properties in more than 170 countries, making the brand the leading online hub for social travel. The website and mobile app operates in 19 different languages.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Headquartered in Dublin, Hostelworld has offices around the world in London, Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul and Porto and was recently recognized as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Places to Work Institute.