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Hostelworld's 19 for 2019: top travel spots

Sri Lanka named dream destination for 2019, as Brits travel further afield in their search for unique experiences

LONDON, 29th November 2018: [Hostelworld](#) has revealed that Sri Lanka is the most desirable travel destination for Brits in 2019. With a 63% year-on-year increase in bookings between 2017 and 2018, Sri Lanka has climbed from its fourth-place position last year¹ to knock Colombia off the top spot from last year's list.

Sri Lanka is closely followed by Turkey (54% increase in bookings) and Israel (40% increase) and the results reveal a trend in Brits heading further afield in their quest for adventure. For example, South Korea comes in ninth place and Asia remains a popular travel destination for Brits with the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Singapore and India featuring in the list. Likewise, travellers are increasingly flocking to Central and South America to get their adventure fix.

***19 Top Travel Spots for Brits in 2019 (based on the increase in bookings versus last year):**

	Country	Growth in bookings from 2017 to 2018
1	Sri Lanka	63%
2	Turkey	54%
3	Israel	40%
4	Philippines	28%
5	Belize	25%
6	Indonesia	21%
7	Argentina	16%
8	Mexico	14%
9	South Korea	14%
10	Canada	11%
11	Nepal	9%
12	Ecuador	9%
13	Chile	8%
14	Singapore	8%
15	India	8%
16	Greece	8%
17	Switzerland	8%
18	Peru	6%
19	Morocco	6%

**Based on countries with the highest YoY increase in bookings made by Brits - 2018 versus 2017*

Research commissioned by Hostelworld² found almost a quarter (24%) of young Brits prioritise cultural experiences over partying (3%) and tanning (7%) on holiday. This may explain why the likes of Thailand, famed for its full moon parties, didn't make it into the top 20 this year.

Catriona Flood, Director of Strategy and Planning, commented: “Young people are on a quest for once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Even when they’re heading to conventional holiday destinations such as Turkey, they’re opting for culturally rich city escapes, rather than staying in typical tourist resorts. In the past year alone, we’ve seen bookings made by Brits to hostels in Istanbul increase by 44%.

“Technology has made it easier than ever to change plans last-minute and explore the world with the people we meet along the way. It enables people to research destinations they hear about and book somewhere to stay in a matter of minutes. Having reliable information at the tips of their fingers gives people confidence to explore further afield,” added Catriona.

Want to see how Brits’ top travel spots compared with global travellers’ top destinations for 2019? See here: <https://www.hostelworld.com/blog/worlds-best-backpacker-destinations/>

Where to stay and when to go for the Top 19 for 2019 Travel Spots

1. Sri Lanka

Where to stay? [Hangover Hostels](#) (rating 8.2)

Av. price of dorms from: £10.17 a night

When’s best to visit: If you’re heading to the west and south coasts, December to March is the best time to visit. If you’re planning on seeing the east coast, the best time to enjoy sunnier climes is from April/May to September when the weather is warm and balmy.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Sri Lanka - £569 return



2. Turkey

Where to stay? [ShoeString Cave House](#) (rating 9.1)

Av. price of dorms from: £8.01 a night

When’s best to visit: Turkey is a beautiful place to visit in the summer months, if you can handle the heat. From mid-June through to mid-September, it’s very hot but perfect for relaxing on the beautiful Turquoise Coast and swimming in the Mediterranean.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Turkey - £135 return



3. Israel

Where to stay? [Pepo Hostel](#) (rating 9.9)

Av. price of dorms from: £21.72 a night

When's best to visit: The seasons of spring (April and May) and autumn (September and October) are the best time to visit Israel, when temperatures are mild throughout the country.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Israel - £263 return



4. Philippines

Where to stay? [Frendz Resort & Hostel](#) (rating 9.1)

Av. Price of dorms from: £7.48 a night

When's best to visit: Between November and April is the most popular time to visit as this is the dry season. At this time, the country is fully accessible, giving you the chance to visit beautiful islands and more remote areas. Temperatures are extremely high during March and April, so it's best to travel during the cooler months of December to February.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Philippines - £665 return



5. Belize

Where to stay? [Lower Dover hostel](#) (rating: 9.4)

Av. Price of dorms from: £9.78 a night

When's best to visit: The best time to visit Belize is from late November to mid-April, during the dry season. Dealing with crowds is an easy sacrifice to make for the warm weather, clear skies and easy access to the country's top attractions.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Belize - £523 return



6. Indonesia

Where to stay? [Cara Cara Inn](#) (rating 8.8)

Av. Price of dorms from: £7.64 a night

When's best to visit: The dry season in Indonesia spans from May to September and this is the most popular time to visit to experience the stunning beaches and beautiful scenery.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Indonesia - £552 return



7. Argentina

Where to stay? [Milhouse Hostel Hipo](#) (rating: 8.9)

Av. Price of dorms from: £12.56 a night

When's best to visit: Whilst December to March are the months in which Patagonia in the south of Argentina is most easily accessible, the whole country can be visited all year round. As for Buenos Aires, the weather is generally hot during this time but a visit in the cooler, crisp months of July and August can be delightful (September is considered low-season, perfect for cheap flight deals!)

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Argentina - £579 return



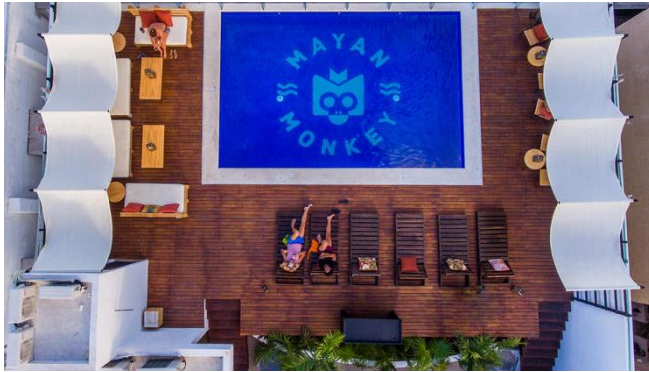
8. Mexico

Where to stay? [Mayan Monkey](#) (rating 9.5)

Av. Price of dorms from: £7.04 a night

When's best to visit: If you want to skip the crowds on your trip, avoid spots like Cancun in March and April when Spring Break takes place. If it's perfect weather that you're looking for, the best time to visit is generally between December and April, when there is virtually no rain.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Mexico - £619 return



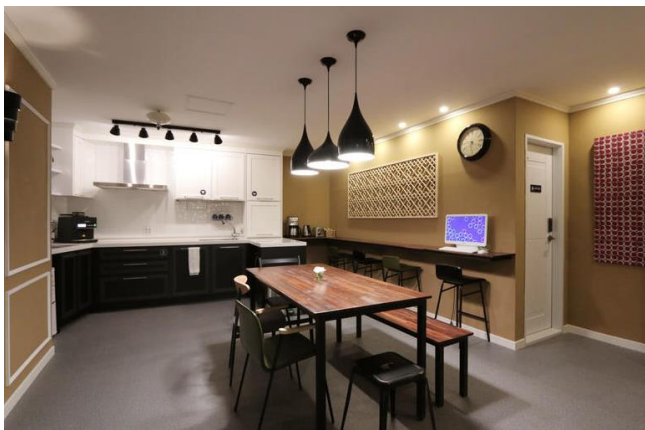
9. South Korea

Where to stay? [Blueboat hostel](#) (rating 9.4)

Av. Price of dorms from: £14.59 a night

When's best to visit: Spring (April to June) and autumn (Sep-Nov) are generally regarded as the best times to visit. Weather is mild, rainfall is low and it's a great time to enjoy the stunning national parks. Avoid the high summer as it can be unbearably muggy and the winter is long and very cold!

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to South Korea - £520 return



10. Canada

Where to stay? [HI Toronto](#) (rating: 8.5)

Av. Price of dorms from: £29.80 a night

When's best to visit: The best time of the year to visit Toronto is from late April through to May and from mid-September through to mid-October. During these times, you'll have a good chance of clear skies and tourist crowds will be few and far between. The sidewalks will come to life with patio eateries, cultural events, and pedestrian markets.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Canada - £438 return



11. Nepal

Where to stay? [Zostel Kathmandu](#) (rating 9.4)

Av. Price of dorms from: £4.69 a night

When's best to visit: Overall the months of October through to November are the best time to visit Nepal with beautiful blue skies and balmy, warm temperatures. Between peak season and the end of the monsoon, mid-September is a great time to visit if you want to avoid the main tourist season!

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Nepal - £571 return



12. Ecuador

Where to stay? [Hostel Revolution](#) (rating: 9.5)

Av. Price of dorms from: £7.40 a night

When's best to visit: The best time to visit is in June when temperatures are still mild. Most tourists visit in July. The wet season in Quito is from December through May so expect heavy rainfalls if you travel during that time. So, if you like lying on beaches, then the rainy season from December-January to April -May is surprisingly the best time to visit Ecuador!

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Ecuador - £510 return



13. Chile

Where to stay? [Radio Boutique Hostel](#) (rating: 9.2)

Av. Price of dorms from: £16.27 a night

When's best to visit: October to March are the warmest and most accessible months to visit Chile. Milder temperatures and fewer crowds, it's a great time of year to explore all that the country has to offer. Avoid visiting between June and August (winter), when most attractions close and resorts empty out.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Chile - £526 return



14. Singapore

Where to stay? [Quarters Capsule Hostel](#) (rating: 8.9)

Av. Price of dorms from: £21.48 a night

When's best to visit: While tourists visit throughout the year, the festival seasons are a great time to explore the many facets of Singapore, especially around July when the Great Singapore Sale and the Singapore Food Festival take place. The months between the summers and winters are quite pleasant from February to April where it is less crowded but weather remains pleasant.

How to get there? Average price from UK to Singapore - £643 return



15. India

Where to stay? [The Bucket List Hostel](#) (rating: 9.6)

Av. Price of dorms from: £1.64 a night

When to visit? India's climate varies significantly from the north to the south of the country. In general, November through to March is the best time to visit large swathes of India. In northern parts, the climate is cool and dry. Whereas in the south it is scorching year-round, but even these parts are more bearable come January. Central pockets of the country, such as Goa with its beaches and colonial architecture, are also more bearable in the wintertime. If it's the Indian Himalayas you've got your sights set on, July through to September is the best time for a trek in these parts.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to India: £578 return



16. Greece

Where to stay? [Athenstyle](#) (rating 8.3)

Av. Price of dorms from: £16.37 a night

When to visit? May and early June offer a great opportunity to visit some of the more popular islands and resorts before the summer crowds arrive. Autumn is another good time to dodge the crowds, with many destinations remaining open until the end of October.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Greece: £99 return



17. Switzerland

Where to stay? [Backpackers Villa Sonnenhof \(Hostel Interlaken\)](#) (rating: 9.4)

Av. Price of dorms from: £20.94 a night

When to visit? The summer months are extremely popular with both the native Swiss and the hordes of visitors who arrive to enjoy the lakes which are renowned for their scenic beauty. It's still low season until mid-December but when Christmas approaches, things get lively and winter sports resorts open up. For the ski season, the best time of year to visit is in January/February when it's winter high season.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Switzerland - £56 return



18. Peru

Where to stay? [Pariwana Hostel Cusco](#) (rating: 9.4)

Av. Price of dorms from: £8.35 a night

When to visit? The coastal and western Andean region are very dry areas with a moderate climate and average temperatures of about 20 degrees Celsius all year round. Further inland it is hot and sunny for most of the year. In the Andes themselves, the dry season takes place between May and September when average temperatures are 25 degrees Celsius and sunny most of the time.

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Peru - £488 return



19. Morocco

Where to stay? [Equity Point Marrakech](#) (rating 9.3)

Av. Price of dorms from: £8.33 a night

When's best to visit: The country is most beautiful in spring (mid-March to May) - the perfect time of year for spectacular mountain hiking. Morocco is also lovely in autumn (September to October) when temperatures are warm but not unbearable

How to get there? Average flight price from UK to Morocco - £200 return



-ENDS-

Notes to editors

For more information, please contact hostelworld@hotwireglobal.com or call 0207 608 2500.

People looking to travel to any places outlined in this content should check the government website for alerts before travelling: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

¹Global top 18 spots from 2018, based on increase in booking volumes in 2017:

1. Colombia
2. Iceland
3. Israel
4. Sri Lanka
5. South Africa
6. Scotland
7. Croatia
8. Vietnam
9. Spain
10. The Philippines
11. USA
12. Thailand
13. Nicaragua
14. Guatemala

15. Cambodia
16. Nepal
17. Mexico
18. Portugal

Methodology

Data and insights based on analysis of Hostelworld booking data between 2017 and 2018. The baseline figure when comparing booking volumes was 1,000.

²Hostelworld commissioned OnePoll to survey 2,000 people based in the UK, between the ages of 18 and 35, who have been on holiday in the last two years.

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 ten million reviews across 36,000 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 and Porto and was recently recognised as a Best Workplace for 2017 by the Great Places to Work Institute.