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I've Seen 100+ of Those Virtual Tours—And These Are My 11 Favorite

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Don't waste your time on mediocre experiences. These amazing escapes let you travel to a paradise far, far away—with just the click of a button.



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The world's best distractions

The global pandemic brought travel to an abrupt halt. Just like that, meticulously planned trips had to be scrapped, bucket lists had to be tucked away, and traveling suddenly meant a trip to the grocery store. But being on lockdown hasn't killed wanderlust—if anything, it's stronger than ever. It's also given birth to a new term: armchair travel. Instead of actually leaving your home, you can settle into your seat and enjoy the show with a virtual tour.

Now everywhere, [**these "trips" serve up travel inspiration**](#) that can help tide us over until we can pack our bags, as well as give us some ideas on where we might want to go. We can tour museums, aquariums, and luxurious resorts. We can hike, bike, scuba dive, and zip line. We can explore gardens, parks, caves, and more. And I have. In fact, I've taken more than 100 online tours, and it's been wonderful. Hours slipped away, and for a time, the C-word that dominates all of our brains right now didn't even enter my mind. Here are some of my favorite virtual escapes. Next, you'll definitely want to learn [**how you can ride over 20 of Disney's best rides virtually**](#).



VIA YOUTUBE.COM

Gaga for gorillas

I'll admit it—I've got a thing for gorillas. I don't know what it is about them that fascinates me quite so much. Maybe it's the way they move so thoughtfully, or maybe it's those eyes, deep pools of expression. They are intense. I'll never forget seeing them at the Bronx Zoo. But I'm dreaming hard of the day that I get to see them in the wild. This was the trip I should have taken this year. Until 2021, though, I'll settle for a glimpse of them trekking in [Bwindi Impenetrable National Park](#) in Uganda, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The park's mountain gorillas are endangered, and about 1,000 are left in only two other countries besides Uganda. I love [this video from VR Gorilla: Virtual Reality Productions](#) because you're sucked right into the environment, enraptured by the sounds of the forest, and you can move the camera to follow the gorillas' every move. See [how coronavirus is affecting the world's endangered animals](#).