

Where We (Hopefully!) Want to Travel in 2021



It's been a long year—but we're ready to look forward. Our community of travelers reminisces on travel (or a lack thereof) in 2020 and shares their top destinations for 2021.

Well, kids, we made it. After months of staying indoors, intense hand sanitization, mask-wearing, sourdough starter kits, virtual experiences, unwarranted *Tiger King* follow-up specials, a presidential election for the ages, and Zoom happy hours that none of us really wanted to attend, we've finally managed to drag ourselves across the 2020 finish line. *Whew*.

After what has undoubtedly been one of the most chaotic years in human history, we're finally ready to take stock of the past several months and look forward to a better, less stressful future. Below, we asked our community of travelers where they found escapism this year—whether by weekend road trips or journeys of the imagination—as well as where they hope to travel as soon as the experts declare Earth open for business again.

Alex Temblador, novelist and freelance writer

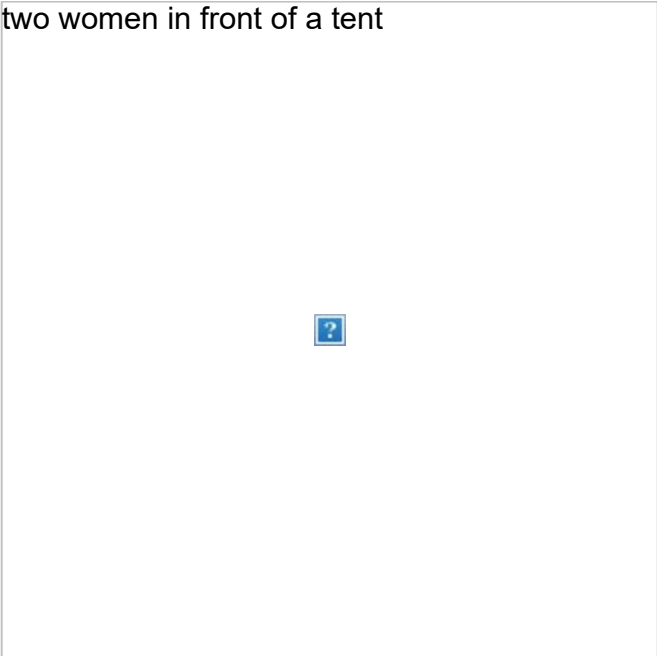
Where did you travel to or find escapism in 2020?

I took an 11-day trip from Dallas to the West Texas city of San Angelo, then south to the border areas of Del Rio, Laredo, Rio Grande City, and McAllen, before turning north to Bandera. My grandmother and father were born in the border town of Laredo, and though I've been to that part of Texas before, I hadn't quite properly explored the cultural, historical, and natural attractions that it has to offer. To be honest, not many people go to that part of Texas for tourism besides birders, and I wanted to find out what we were missing. I learned that there are beautiful places and attractions in Texas that have long been overlooked in guidebooks, histories that have been forgotten or rewritten, and people who are themselves a mix of competing ideas and beliefs, yet who have somehow set those things aside to keep their communities afloat.

Where are you desperate to go as soon as we can travel again?

Two areas of the world are calling to my inner traveler: The first is Guadalajara, Mexico, a vibrant artistic city from which some of my family hails. I'd love to spend a few weeks connecting with extended family while also practicing my Spanish. Perhaps I'd set aside extra time to visit small cities nearby like Tequila and Tlaquepaque, before taking a further trip to Merida. The second place I'd love to visit is Eastern Europe. It's my hope to do a tour of many of the countries that make up that part of the world, as I'm fascinated by various cultures, natural landmarks, and history of that region.

two women in front of a tent



Photojournalists Alicia Carter and Haley France spent the summer on the road documenting rural America's fight to protect the U.S.P.S.

Alicia Carter and Haley France, photojournalists

Where did you travel to or find escapism in 2020?