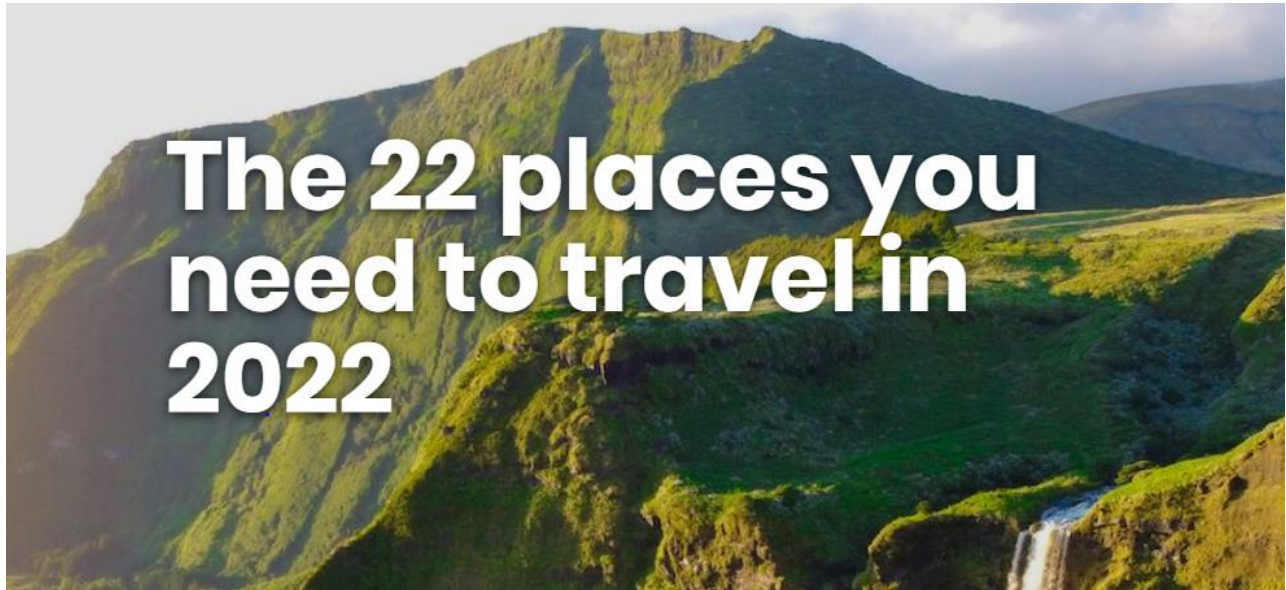




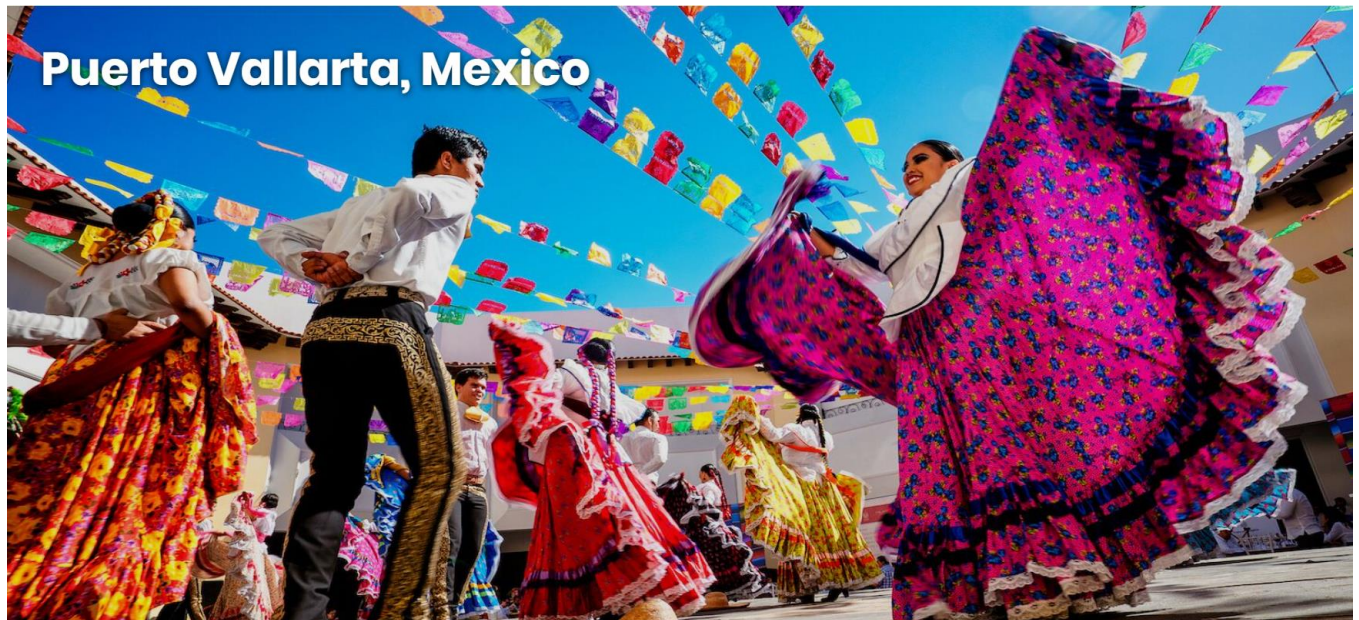
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# The 22 places you need to travel in 2022

The calendar is finally flipping to 2022, but unfortunately, we haven't quite turned the page on the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health precautions are still in place in many countries around the world, and travelers still face various vaccination, masking, and testing requirements. That doesn't mean we can't still kick off 2022 with an epic vacation. From a glass-half-full perspective, the world's borders are much more open than they were this time last year, and with vaccines widely available, you can jet around the world with greater peace of mind. Whether it's lounging on a beach in Costa Rica, weaving through the wild roads of Iceland's Westfjords, or celebrating the *Lord of the Rings*' 20th anniversary in New Zealand, these are the best places to travel in 2022.

*Editor's note: These entries were written by Alex Bresler, Eben Diskin, Olivia Harden, and Tim Wenger, with nominations from the entire Matador Network staff.*



## 6. [Puerto Vallarta, Mexico](#)

The decision to visit Mexico is an easy one. Deciding where to spend your precious vacation days while there poses more of a challenge. Until [Puerto Vallarta](#) makes the shortlist, that is.

Puerto Vallarta is among the most popular resort towns on Mexico's Pacific coast. And for good reason. Its world-famous beaches are swaddled by lush Sierra Madre mountains. Its cuisine features the best of both land and sea, from ceviche fresh from Banderas Bay to juicy birria tacos. The art is vibrant, the cobblestone streets are lined with charming tiendas, and there's a thriving LGBTQ community that makes Puerto Vallarta inclusive for all travelers.

Plan to visit between November and May to ensure you're getting the best weather throughout your stay. You'll appreciate the sunshine as you zip across the longest suspension bridge in the world for vehicles, the [Jorullo Bridge](#),

in an ATV. After, refuel alfresco at [Gaby's Restaurant](#) in El Centro, Puerto Vallarta's entertainment hub.

From there, you'll have easy access to the city's malecón, or boardwalk, where you'll see street performers mingling with sunbathers, sand sculptures decorating shore, and local shops and restaurants anchoring all the activity. Settle in here for sunset, or use the last minutes of daylight to continue your walking tour, stopping to admire the city's myriad Frida Kahlo murals all aglow.