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# The Best in Travel Promise

Where is the best place to visit right now?

This is the most hotly contested topic at Lonely Planet and dominates more conversations than any other. As self-confessed travel geeks, our staff collectively rack up hundreds of thousands of miles each year, exploring almost every destination on the planet in the process.

Where is the best place to visit right now? We ask everyone at Lonely Planet, from our authors and editors all the way to our online family of bloggers and tweeters. And each year they come up with hundreds of places that are buzzy right now, offer new things for travellers to see or do, or are criminally overlooked and underrated.

Amid fierce debate, the list is whittled down by our panel of travel experts to just 10 countries, 10 regions and 10 cities. Each is chosen for its topicality, unique experiences and ‘wow’ factor.

We don’t just report on the trends, we set them – helping you get there before the crowds do.

Put simply, what remains in the pages that follow is the cream of this year’s travel picks, courtesy of Lonely Planet: 10 countries, 10 regions, 10 cities and a host of travel lists to inspire you to explore for yourself.

So what are you waiting for?





# Lonely Planet's Top 10 Countries



SEAN PAVONE © SHUTTERSTOCK

1. Botswana	10
2. Japan	14
3. USA	18
4. Palau	22
5. Latvia	26
6. Australia	30
7. Poland	34
8. Uruguay	38
9. Greenland	42
10. Fiji	46

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF  
THE MIGHTY LEOPARD  
IN BOTSWANA'S CHOBE  
NATIONAL PARK



# Botswana

Botswana is a unique destination: an unusual combination of desert and delta that draws an immense concentration of wildlife



Population: **2 million**

Foreign visitors per year: **2.1 million**

Capital: **Gaborone**

Languages: **Setswana, Kalanga, English**

Major industry: **diamonds, copper, nickel**

Unit of currency: **pula (P)**

Cost index: **mid-range camp per night**

**P6048 (US\$600), flight transfers**

**P1512-2016 (US\$150-200),**

**bottle of beer P25 (US\$2.5),**

**litre of petrol P10 (US\$0.99)**

# 1



Why go in 2016? > Africa's unsung success

In 2016 Botswana will celebrate its 50th year of independence. So what, you may say. What's there to shout about? Well, quite a lot really. Not least the longest continuous multi-party democracy on the continent, a progressive social outlook (Botswana was one of the first countries to offer free anti-retroviral drugs to its citizens in 2002), minimal corruption, a healthy and enlightened tourism industry and a fast-growing economy since independence. The country's journey from abject poverty in 1966 to become one of Africa's most stable and thriving societies is hugely inspiring and, no doubt, deserves a proverbial pat on the back.