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52 Places to Go in 2024

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John Burchard for The New York Times

SCROLL TO BEGIN



37 Mustang, Nepal 🌐

A remote citadel of Tibetan culture cracks open the gate

Getty

MUSTANG

Full List



Adventure, History

Nestled high on the Tibetan plateau in the northern reaches of Nepal, the ancient Himalayan kingdom of Mustang is a bastion of traditional Tibetan culture, preserved for centuries by its remoteness. Now, a new 183-mile road linking the region to China as well as the gleaming but debt-saddled and increasingly contentious international airport in Pokhara — both projects backed by Beijing — will give travelers easier access to sites like the well-preserved medieval fortress of [Lo Manthang](#) in Upper Mustang, which was a [restricted area](#) for tourists until the early 1990s.

Wilderness treks through the [Annapurna](#) and [Dhaulagiri](#) mountain ranges traverse river gorges, glacial lakes and rugged trails dotted with yaks and sheep. While budget-friendly hotels abound, the new, luxury [Shinta Mami Mustang](#) makes Nepal's [new trekking rules](#), which require hikers to use a local licensed guide or porter, easier to follow by offering a range of tours with certified guides.

— Nora Walsh