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All it takes is one big group trip to realize that not everyone goes on vacation for the same reason. To one traveler, a beach is a place to be horizontal, big hat on head, cocktail straw in mouth. To another, it's a stepping stone to adventure under and atop the waves. A new city can be a challenge—see, eat, experience it all—or an invitation to zoom in on one area and live like a local.

Read on for our annual compilation of the 10 very best places to go in 2026. We've got enough of everything that anyone will find trip inspiration, whether you're chasing your next solar eclipse, or your next Michelin star.

Yunnan, China



Songtsam Lodge Cizhong, fresh off a renovation, is one of a number of new and revamped lodging options in Yunnan Province. Songtsam Hotels & Resorts

Yunnan, in China's southwest, draws intrepid travelers for its mountain scenery, rare tea and villages where traditions persevere. But getting around has long been difficult. In the past few

years though, high-speed rail has expanded in all directions from Kunming, Yunnan's capital. Outfitter [WildChina](#) guides travelers along the Kunming-Baoshan route to explore a once-remote western frontier, visiting coffee farms, cheesemakers and truffle hunters.



A spread of traditional dishes on a trip put on by WildChina, one of the few tour operators working in Yunnan's western reaches. WildChina

Elsewhere in the province, [Songtsam Lodge Cizhong](#), where guests can sip housemade Chardonnay, has reopened after a two-year refurbishment, with a sister hotel coming to Kunming next year. [The Dali Edition](#) will soon debut in the Cangshan Mountains, where you'll be linked to a network of walking trails. —*Nora Walsh*