

Travel 'n' Shop

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Source: www.iexplore.com

MOLDOVA

Highlights

- Check out Chisinau's three major museums, Archeology and History, Natural History and Fine Arts
- Take a boat tour along the River Danube
- Explore the 13th century cave monastery in Orheiul Vechi, set amongst massive cliffs
- Explore Soroca town, its massive fortress and Roma community
- Take a trip back in time to Transnistria, an entire open-air museum dedicated to Communism and the Soviet era
- Embark on a daytrip to the ancient settlements, monasteries, gorges, and waterfalls around Saharna

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Editor's Note



DR. S.M. TAHIR

In this month's issue, we have included many countries for tourists to choose from and most of the countries are nontraditional for most of the travelers, isn't it?

Due to COVID pressures for the last two years being immense and with lots of limitations, most of the countries have now eased the travel restrictions. On the other hand, people have also gone through lots of stress and pressure and now really want to relax so that they are well prepared for post COVID challenges and especially for regaining lost business and bringing business back to the normality and pre COVID accounts.

We look forward for a better summer this time and are praying for the mercury to be in its best possible limits!

Bon Voyage!



Dr. S.M. Tahir
Editor in Chief



Tourism in the Republic of MOLDOVA

Moldova is small state with a rich history and a colourful culture thanks to its diversity. Moldova is a country where fruits and vegetables are full of flavour and the wines are highly valued at international competitions.

Historically, Moldova is the contact area of different cultural and historic currents-namely the Carpathian Balkans, Central European, and Eurasian, it has combined various cultural traditions of the Proto-Indo-European populations (Cucuteni-Tripoli culture), as well as the most archaic branches of the Indo-Europeans, including the Tracians, Celts, Romans, Slavs, Goths, Huns.

The Republic of Moldova was founded in 1359 and it fell under the influence of the Kingdom of Hungary, Poland, the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire. In 1991, the Republic of Moldova gained its independence and sovereignty.



H.E. Mr. Victor Haruta,
Ambassador, Embassy of
Moldova, Abu Dhabi, UAE
with Dr. S. M. Tahir
Chairman, Iqra Group,
Dubai.



H.E. Mr. Victor Haruta, Ambassador, Embassy of Moldova,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Key facts about Moldova as a touristic destination, Moldova is positioned among top 10 destinations for wine and gastronomic tourism according "Winerist", among top 10 demanded destinations according to Bloomberg, among top 10 places that worth more travellers according to "National geographic".

Moldova has the largest village in Europe- Congaz, in the south part Gagauzia live a Turkish minority and in the north, Soroca is considered the capital of Roma people. The Struve geodetic arch, recognized by UNESCO world heritage, is in northern Moldova. Also, part of UNESCO is the Moldovan handmade carpet and the Moldovan blouse "IA", as well as the symbol of spring "MARTISOR".



Moldova is known for the various forms of tourism...



1. CULTURE

The Republic of Moldova has a rich cultural heritage which may be of great interest to tourists. 140 cultural heritage sites may be included in the tourist circuit. The earliest visible remains of the built heritage are Geto-Dacian sites and Roman fortifications. The remains of medieval fortresses, archaeological complexes such as Orheiul Vechi, cave monasteries, nobles' mansions and peasant houses offer a diversity of visitor attractions. Chisinau, the capital city, features a good number of cultural heritage monuments, fine examples of domestic architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries, which might be considered as tourist attractions as well.



The Republic of Moldova has 87 museums with rich collections of art. Additionally, museums are mostly housed in buildings of a special architectural importance. All of these have their specialist audiences, but at least 20 are of interest to the public.

Part of the national tourist product is the variety of cultures represented in different parts of the country. The Republic of Moldova is an amalgam of many nationalities and cultures with many traditions, languages, folklore, cooking, etc. There are over 880 folk music groups in the Republic of Moldova, most of them reflecting the distinct traditions of their districts and ethnic origins. It is worth mentioning the national craftsmanship both because of cultural value and because it supplies souvenirs for tourists.

2. RURAL AND GASTRONOMIC TOURISM

The landscapes, cultural and tourist attractions, historical vestiges, gastronomic traditions, and the hospitality of the Moldovans, are attractive elements of rural and gastronomic tourism in the Republic of Moldova. The intangible cultural heritage which includes the folklore, traditions and customs, and the local crafts is highly leveraged within the rural tourism, offering visitors the opportunity to learn about the daily life of native people, the charm of holidays, to taste the traditional Moldovan cuisine based on local products, grown in ecological conditions, to enjoy horse and cart riding in summer, and sledge riding in winter, biking and hiking, tours to tourist attractions, cultural activities, etc.

The ones preferring easy food shall find in the Moldavian cuisine many preparations based on vegetables, such as cabbage, vines, eggplants, beans, potatoes, green pepper, onion, leek, mushrooms, garlic. The meat addicts benefit of quite a feast about the Moldovan gastronomy. The Moldovan *tochitura*, *Placinta*, *Zeama*, *Mamaliga*, *Racitura*, *Baba* are just some examples. Moldova's agricultural and picturesque countryside proposes various services for tourists wishing to stay in the middle of the nature:

- Offering the tourists traditional, rural-style accommodation.
- Providing them the opportunity to enjoy country pursuits and activities.
- Making them acquainted with the local folklore, entertainment, and traditions.
- Displaying handicrafts to the tourists and giving them the opportunity to participate in their production.
- Offering handicrafts for purchase.

3. HEALTH AND BEAUTY TOURISM

The existing balneo-climateric health resorts in the Republic of Moldova could become a substantial balneotherapeutic and tourist product internationally, provided that a proper infrastructure would be created.

The best premises in this regard have the “Bucuria-sind” health resort from Vadul lui Voda, “Codru” health resort from Hirjauca village, Calarasi district, and especially “Nufarul Alb” health resort from Cahul.



Dr. S. M. Tahir Chairman, Iqra Group, Dubai
with Ms. Dumitrita Craciun, Third Secretary,
Embassy of Moldova, Abu Dhabi, UAE.



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GAZA PROVINCE – MOZAMBIQUE

The Gaza Province has a geographical location that confers unique characteristics and an odd combination of sun and beach tourism and inland tourism, with richness in biological diversity, watercourses, plain landscapes, and white sand beaches, providing natural opportunities for tourism practice.

The province is proud to combine an odd experience of sun, beach, and sea tourism with excellent potential for diversity of flora and fauna and a wide range of historical-cultural and heritage diversity.

Gaza has unique landscape features that define a place of impressive beauty, rich and appraisable, to highlight:

- Rock cord parallel to the coast protecting it from the open sea at high tide, forming several pools at low tide it is possible to catch mussels, oysters, and other mollusks;
- Beautiful parabolic dunes with unique vegetation cover, with the possibility of whale watching in the sea;
- Conditions for sport fishing;
- Vegetation where species of monkeys abound that can be observed punctually

Location Geography

Gaza Province, whose capital is Xai-Xai City, has 11 districts and 5 municipalities in an extension of 75,709 km². It is 210 km from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and is located in the south of the country, to the south it is bordered by the Incoluane River which is part of Maputo Province, and to the north the Save River that is part of Manica province, to the west by the Republics of South Africa and Zimbabwe, to the northeast by Inhambane province having to the east the Indian Ocean.

The climate is humid tropical, with average annual temperatures ranging between 22°C and 24°C. The rainy season occurs from October to March.

How to Get There

You can access the province by Road, being from the South, from the borders of Namaacha, Goba, Ressano Garcia, and Giriyondo from South Africa or the Kingdom of eSwatini.

From the North, from the N1 road, or from the borders of Machipanda and Chicualacuala from Zimbabwe and Paphúri from the Republic of South Africa.

By air from Maputo International Airport and Jacinto Filipe Nyusi Airport, which recently opened and is ready to welcome tourists from all quarters of the world

Public Utility Information

Taxis – In the city of Xai-Xai, there are several companies that provide taxi services.

Banks – All banks in the province have ATM machines, which offer VISA Eléctron, VISA, and Master Card services.

Accommodation and catering and drinks – the province has several categories and classes of accommodation and restaurants ranging from 5 to 1 star and 1 to 3 class

History

Gaza is a province with rich historical and cultural heritage, recognized nationally and internationally. Land of heroes, among them Ngungunhane, the last sovereign of the Gaza Empire, founded by the Nguni people, Samora Moises Machel, the first independent president of Mozambique.

Nwadjahane –

Historical site designated as the Open-Air Museum of Nwadjahane, where Dr. Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, First President of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) was born. This site includes a family cemetery, a library, a commemorative monument, House 1920, House 1961, Tombstone, Plain, Nyawurhongolo Lagoon, Digital Resources Center, and the protection zone.



Chilembene –

It is located in the district of Chókwé, where the 1st President of Mozambique, Samora Moisés Machel, was born. On this site was erected a monument in honor of Samora Moisés Machel, consisting of eleven pillars representing the provinces of the country. Several elements were built in the Center of the Village of Chilembene: Residence of the Machel Family, Monuments, Family Cemetery, Mafurreira de M'chovane, Marambadjane Primary School (first school attended by Samora Machel), and other associated elements.



Chaimite –

Located in Chibuto, was the first capital of the State of Gaza and where King Ngungunhane, the last emperor of Gaza, was arrested. In the center, you can see a monument in honor of Ngungunhane, which is fenced with canhoeiros trees. Around there are the palhotas built-in 1995, during the celebrations of the centenary of the arrest of King Ngungunhane and the fall of the State of Gaza.



Coolela –

Located in Mandlakazi, this place waged a bloody battle of resistance to Portuguese colonial penetration. On-site, there is a pedestal dedicated to the fallen Mozambican warriors and a plaque that indicates the protection of the place.



Ka-mandlakazi –

Located in Mandlakazi Village, the last capital of Gaza state. In the center of the village was erected a monument in honor of King Ngungunhane. Behind the Administration, the building is a historic Tambeira, locally known as Tsondzo, where King Ngungunhane met regularly with high commandos of his army during the wars of resistance against the Portuguese colonialists

Magul –

located in Bilene, took place on September 8, 1895, a battle motivated by King Ngungunhane's refusal to hand over the war chiefs Mahazul and Matibedjane to the authorities of the colonial government Portuguese. This fight culminated in the battles of Coolela, Mandlakazi, and Tchaimite. Currently, there is a pedestal where is affixed a plaque that honors Mozambican warriors who died in the resistance struggle against the Portuguese colonial occupation.

Chirindzene –

Locally known as PHAHLELWENI LAKA MATHAVELE, once, was the center of settlement where they lived and later buried the ancestors and main leaders of the Mathaveye clan (Mathavele). On the side of the sacred forest and in front of the local Primary School, there was a leafy tree "Mfungura" where Eduardo Mondlane rested and ate his lunch while traveling on foot to Lourenço Marques.



Culture

The fusion of ancestral and modern tradition, making it multicultural and multilingual is transmitted through gastronomy, clothing, music, dance, and art, making the province rich in cultural diversity. The most executed traditional dances are Xingomane, Macuai, Muthimba, Makhara, among others.

Beaches

Gaza has about 150km of coastline with the geomorphology of the beaches characterized by modern sedimentary environments barging the barrier beach (in the open sea), flood tidal delta deposits, ebb-tide deltas, tidal channel, wind dune barrier, with a humid tropical climate, and quaternary formations of inland dunes, coastal dunes interspersed with a string of lagoons and coastal swamps composed of white sands and beautiful landscapes.

Bilene Beach – is located on the shores of the Uembje lagoon, with slightly salty transparent waters, and fine white sand.

Attractions: Natural landscape beauty with conditions for tourist activities (entertainment, ocean safaris, boat trip, sport fishing, diving, jet-skiing, canoeing).

Chongoene Beach – this beach has features similar to those of Xai-Xai Beach. The possibility of whale watching in the sea, has good natural conditions impressive for the practice of tourist activities, sport fishing, ocean safaris, boat trip, diving, and jet-ski, among others.

Chidenguele – This place offers good conditions for diving and bathing, because the water is very calm and does not present dangerous waves it is possible to see the coral reefs and contemplate a variety of fish of various species and colors.



MAIN LAGOONS

Pave Lagoon – The waters of this lagoon come from the Lumane River, it is an area that presents good conditions for tourism exploration as well as the practice of agriculture and fishing.

Lagoa Walute – Located in the region near Maciene Beach, Chongoene District, features a natural landscape beauty and conditions for tourist activities (boating, fishing, diving, jet-skiing, canoeing).

Nhambavale Lagoon – After the detour, in the small village of Chidenguele, is the Nhambavale Lagoon with 35 km long freshwater this lagoon offers conditions for the practice of sport fishing and canoeing and is of an impressive landscape beauty.

Bambene Lagoon – It is a lagoon located in the District of Chibuto, and has characteristics similar to that of the sea. In this lagoon, you can pick up the famous fish from Bambene and have conditions to practice various tourist activities (boat trips, jet-ski, fishing, canoeing).

PARKS AND RESERVES

Limpopo National Park

Located to the north of the province and extending between the Districts of Massingir, Chicualacuala, and Mabalane, it is an integral part of the Great Limpopo Cross-Border Park that includes South Africa's Kruger National Park and Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park. It features attractive forest formations, wild fauna with various species of animals, and accommodation facilities for tourists. You can access the Park by land, giriyondo border post (dirt road), coming from Kruger Park and the Border Post of Pafúri. From the interior of Mozambique, it is possible to access through the entrances of Massingir and Mapai. This Park has the particularity of presenting a landscape still intact on almost its entire surface with 10 distinct forest formations, being able to observe the Big-Five (Lion, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Leopard, and Buffalo).



Banhine National Park

It is located to the north of Gaza Province and extends between the districts of Chigubo, Mabalane, and Chicualacuala, about 100 km from Limpopo National Park following through Mapai.

In this Park, contemplative tourism is practiced, being possible to observe several species of birds as ostrich, including migratory ones, between the months of November to March, which gives beauty to the place.

The Park has distinct forest formations with wetlands, open savannah, Mopane, and Miombo forest, having one of the largest wetlands in the interior of Mozambique.

Throughout the year you can observe lions, leopards, cudo, impala, inhala, gray kid, spotted hyenas, bush pigs, and others.

The parks have excellent accommodation conditions with catering and beverage services and for safaris, providing the rich animal diversity and flora



Other Tourist Attractions

The Gaza Province offers several opportunities in different areas of action such as:

- Tourist Transport;
- Tourist Accommodation
- Restoration;
- Tourist Animation;
- Travel Agencies;
- Tour Guides;
- Creation of small businesses;
- Sport hunting and establishment of wild farms, among others.

Manssingir Dam

Located between the Shingwedzi river area and the Mapai area. This area has attractions such as flora, fauna, and culture. In this location you can practice hiking, cycling within the community, and boat riding along the reservoir. Along the elephant river, there is the Massingir Reservoir, where you can fish for the alias tilapia, which is exported and marketed internationally.



Filipe Jacinto Nyusi Airport

The air gateway for tourists and visitors to Gaza province, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi Airport, occupies an area of 140ha, with the runway 1800m long and 45m wide. It has a passenger terminal, cargo terminal, and supports buildings. The infrastructure has a capacity to receive 220,000 passengers.

This airport contributes to the development of the tourism sector at the regional and international level and also to the attraction of other activities taking into account the potential that Gaza has in the areas of mining, agriculture, and agro-processing, among others.



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An aerial night view of the New York City skyline. The Empire State Building is the central focus, illuminated with bright yellow lights. The surrounding city is filled with other skyscrapers, some of which are also lit up, creating a vibrant urban scene against a dark blue twilight sky.

AMERICA

Add a little bit of body text

ARGENTINA



Source: www.planetware.com

Argentina is a country in the southern half of South America. It covers an area of 2,780,400 km², making it the largest Spanish-speaking nation in the world by area.

The diverse geography of Argentina encompasses everything from harsh deserts to humid jungles, and long ocean beaches to the soaring Andes. Argentina's cultural, artistic, and architectural heritage is broad, ranging from the subtropical north to the subantarctic regions of magnificent Patagonia in the south, and drawing on influences from all over the world.

Buenos Aires, with its great barrios, such as colorful arts quarters like La Boca, old-world Recoleta, and trendy districts like Palermo, feels more like Europe than Latin America at times. The greatest spot to start exploring is in the vibrant capital city.

Aside from its many cultural attractions, the country's natural treasures, such as the stunning Iguaz Falls, the world's largest series of waterfalls, are also huge pulls – and for some travelers, the most appealing.

IGUAZÚ FALLS

Iguaz Falls are located on Argentina's border with Brazil, with Iguazu National Park on the Argentine side and Iguazu National Park on the Brazilian side. These massive waterfalls, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are surely one of South America's most stunning views.

The number of individual falls along Iguazu's roughly three-kilometer edge varies depending on the season, ranging in height from 60 to 82 meters and each as stunning as the next. It's pretty easy to visit, especially if traveling from Buenos Aires, because it's served by an international airport in Argentina (and one in adjacent Brazil).



Source: blog.wego.com

PERITO MORENO GLACIER

The little town of El Calafate, the primary hub for travelers visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Patagonia's Los Glaciares National Park, provides lots of lodging options and other services.

The Perito Moreno Glacier, a vast 30-kilometer-long ice formation (and the world's third largest freshwater reserve) just 78 kilometers from the town center, is where most visitors take tours to explore the park's popular glaciers.

It's only a two-hour drive from El Calafate to the glacier's big tourist center, and then a short walk to the glacier. Ice trekking tours range from an hour's walk across the ice formation to longer five-hour excursions for individuals who want to climb the glacier.

The 3,359-meter-tall Monte Fitz Roy, which straddles the Chilean border and is said to be tougher to climb than Everest, is another notable feature of Los Glaciares National Park.



Source: www.tripadvisor.com

PUERTO MADRYN AND THE VALDÉS PENINSULA

The city of Puerto Madryn is located on the coast of Golfo Nuevo, in one of the most protected areas along the Patagonian coast. The city's deep-water port and abundant natural reserves make it one of Argentina's most popular cruise destinations. It was founded by Welsh settlers in 1886.

Water sports aficionados, notably windsurfers who like facing the fierce Patagonian winds, flock to this rough shoreline. On the Valdez Peninsula, a significant nature reserve designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its rich fauna, nature lovers will find lots to do.



Source: www.kimkim.com

USHUAIA: THE END OF THE WORLD



Source: www.tecni austral.com

Patagonia, in Argentina's south, is known for its beautiful landscapes, which include a dramatic mix of the Andes and large lengths of grasslands and plateaus. The majority of the experiences begin in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city.

This town on Beagle Channel is surrounded by a unique landscape of mountains, sea, glaciers, and woods on the edge of the Tierra del Fuego National Park, with its spectacular scenery and diverse flora and fauna. It was founded as a penal colony in the early twentieth century and is now a popular jumping-off point for trips to Antarctica or around Cape Horn.

The San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse, popularly known as the End of the World Lighthouse, was built in 1884 on the Isla de los Estados and is a popular tourist attraction. Exhibits about the region's natural history, aboriginal life, and early penal colonies can be found here.



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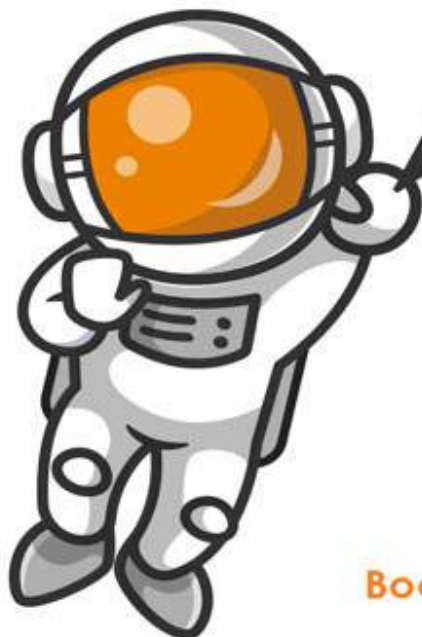
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MEXICO



Mexico is a country in the southern portion of North America. It is bordered to the north by the United States; to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; to the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and to the east by the Gulf of Mexico.

CANCÚN AND THE MAYAN RIVIERA



The resort locations of Cancun, Playa del Carmen, the island of Cozumel, and beyond are located along a stunning length of coastline on the Gulf of Mexico. The Riviera Maya is the collective name for these areas.

This beautiful location on the Yucatán Peninsula's eastern coast attracts over five million people each year, producing significant tourist money. Despite these numbers, the Riviera's huge beaches, infinite crystal-clear ocean, and abundance of excellent all-inclusive resorts ensure that you won't feel crowded.



Dolphin and stingray swims, snorkeling amid reefs and tropical fish, and scuba diving in the world's largest underwater museum, a remarkable collection of sculptures submerged at depths of up to eight meters, are all available in the region.

THE ANCIENT FORTRESS OF TULUM

Tulum is one of the most popular tourist destinations on the Yucatán Peninsula since it is the only fortified Mayan hamlet on the shore. The site's well-preserved ruins may be seen for miles around due to their placement atop 12-meter-high cliffs overlooking the gorgeous Caribbean Sea, along the Mayan Riviera and within easy reach of the beaches of Cancn, Playa del Carmen, and Cozumel.

Tulum is particularly known for its high walls, which give the site a fortress-like atmosphere and hint to military as well as religious significance. The village, which dates from the 13th century and was inhabited until the arrival of the Spanish in 1544, features many other noteworthy archaeological artifacts, including the Temple of the Frescoes (Templo de los Frescos), which has its own set of frescoes.



RIVIERA NAYARIT

The Riviera Nayarit is a stretch of shoreline north of Puerto Vallarta that starts in the state of Nayarit. Sayulita or Punta Mita, a luxury enclave peninsula, are two familiar settlements that stand out. However, there is so much more to discover on the Riviera Nayarit, which is nearly overgrown with natural beauty.

Surfers have been going to the jungle-beaten pathways and unspoiled beaches to the north for decades while Puerto Vallarta was booming and expanding. The picture has changed recently, as once-bustling fishing communities have given way to tranquil boutique hotel towns. Former surf towns have been remade as havens for yoga retreats and boho-chic galleries, with five-star resorts and villas dotting the slopes. The ultra-high-end luxury is rapidly approaching.



COSTA OAXAQUENA

The elevation drops quickly from the mountains of Oaxaca City to the magnificent coast of Oaxaca. This stretch of the Pacific is one of Mexico's last natural coasts. It has escaped extensive development throughout the years, remaining one of the most authentic, raw, and natural areas to experience unspoilt beaches.

Huatulco, a series of nine bays cut out of the coastline, is the main town along the Oaxacan coast. The majority of hotels and restaurants, as well as a harbor, are located here. Things become considerably more harsh and desolate as you travel further north. Before arriving in Puerto Escondido, you'll pass past the hippie beach towns of Mazunte and Zipolite.



HUASTECA POTOSINA, SAN LUIS POTOSI

There are numerous steep valleys and roaring rivers in Mexico, but none are as gorgeous as La Huasteca Potosina. The Indigenous Huasteca people live in the Huasteca region of Mexico, which includes many states. However, the region in the state of San Luis Potosi is noted for its spectacular waterfalls.

Tropical flowers abound in this hot and humid rainforest, which burst forth from the dense, green vegetation. Its veins are crisscrossed with dazzling blue water, leading to stunning ribbons of cascading falls – and swimming holes to match.

Huasteca Potosina is not easily accessible, yet it appeals to adventure tourists who wish to discover a side of Mexico that few others have seen.





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COLOMBIA

Colombia is a South American country with a North American insular region. It is surrounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Venezuela, on the southeast by Brazil, on the south by Ecuador and Peru, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the northwest by Panama. Colombia is a confident country that is charging headlong into a more peaceful and wealthy future.

Snowcapped Andean peaks, tropical Amazonian jungles, blue Caribbean shores, and two sun-kissed deserts await you in this region of extremes. The locations in between, from the magic of Cartagena and the hustle of Medellin to the tranquil colonial villages of Salento and Mompox, provide a wealth of stunning sights.



Source: matadornetwork.com

EJE CAFETERO

Colombia, the world's third-largest producer of coffee beans, is an excellent destination for tastings and tours. The main majority of production takes place between the small cities of Armenia, Pereira, and Manizales in the subtropical Andean hills west of Bogota. The Eje Cafetero (or Coffee Axis) is home to a rising number of coffee estates that have recently opened their operations to the public for tours, tastings, and luxurious farm stays.

These modest (and frequently organic) farms are the type of site where the farmer-owner will spend an hour out of his day to explain how a simple "cherry" becomes a coffee bean that will be roasted and ground into a latte back home.

With various agricultural excursions nearby and much to do, the small seaside town of Salento is certainly the most appealing area to establish oneself. You'll also have easy access to places like Cocora Valley, which is home to the world's tallest palm trees. You can hire bicycles from Salento and explore the region on your own, or take a ride in one of the town's de facto taxis, the old Willy jeeps.



Source: www.nomadichustle.com

TAYRONA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK

The Tayrona National Natural Park, which is noted for its palm-shaded coves and crystal-clear coastal lagoons, contains some of Colombia's best beaches. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, whose rainforested highlands make for a terrific side trip on any beach holiday, is home to the majority of the beaches.

Tayrona also offers excellent snorkeling opportunities near La Piscina beach and Cabo San Juan. Because these isolated beaches aren't really hidden, it's advisable to visit during the low season (February to November) to avoid the crowds. Be prepared to sleep in a tent (or hammock) at one of the many coastal campgrounds unless you pay for the exclusive Ecohabs Tayrona.



Source: national-parks.org

CAÑO CRISTALES

Cao Cristales was closed for decades due to guerilla fighters, but it is now open to the public and accepting more visitors than ever before. The majority of visitors to this secluded river canyon in the Orinoquia region come to climb amongst the waterfalls and swim in the natural swimming holes.

While the canyon is worth visiting in any season, between July and November, an algae bloom transforms the riverbed into a rainbow of colors. La Macarena, a remote outpost only accessible by air from Bogotá or Villavicencio, is your base for treks to Cao Cristales.



Source: www.theactivetimes.com

LA GUAJIRA PENINSULA

As South America's most northerly point, it's only fitting that La Guajira is unlike anywhere else on the continent. Where the orange-brown La Guajira Desert meets the turquoise Caribbean Sea, this distant and little-visited peninsula is a tranquil sanctuary of sweeping sand dunes, bird-covered mangrove swamps, and wide swaths of unoccupied land.

Because the peninsula is home to the proud Wayuu people, who were never subdued by Spanish control and have a flourishing culture to this day, indigenous beliefs are the law of the land.

Keep in mind that tourism in La Guajira is still relatively young, and the journey in from Riohacha, the provincial seat, demands both patience and a spirit of adventure. Cabo de la Vela, the windsurfing mecca, has the most tourism infrastructure and is likely to be your best entry point into the region.



Source: vitravels.com

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PANAMA



Source: www.investopedia.com

Panama is a country that connects Central and South America via an isthmus. The Panama Canal, a legendary human engineering marvel, runs through the heart of the country, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and providing a vital shipping route. Modern skyscrapers, casinos, and nightclubs contrast with colonial buildings in the Casco Viejo area and the rainforest of Natural Metropolitan Park in Panama City, the capital.

Panama is tropical all year round, with access to both the blue Caribbean and the azure Pacific. It's no surprise that it's one of Central America's most tourist-friendly places, with superb beaches and breathtaking natural landscape.

Panama has much more to offer visitors than the Panama Canal, which connects the Pacific and the Atlantic. However, seeing this man-made marvel is unforgettable. Panama has something for everyone, from mountain villages to skyscraper cities, coffee fields to island archipelagos.

PEARL ISLANDS

The Pearl Islands of Panama are a group of islands in the Pacific that were featured prominently in three seasons of the reality television show *Survivor*. They are among the world's most beautiful islands, with forested islands and pearl-white sandy beaches. While the beauty of the islands is mostly due to their solitude, Contadora Island is the most developed, with two luxury tourist resorts.

The Pearl Islands were once home to native Indians until the 16th century, when they were conquered by the Spanish in search of pearls, the island's namesake. Contadora Island (which means 'Counting Island') was known for its pearl industry, which numbered, registered, and shipped pearls. The majority of the activities revolve around relaxation: sunbathing on one of the many beautiful beaches, fishing, whale watching, or exploring an old shipwreck on the far side of Playa Larga, Contadora Island's largest beach.

SANTA CATALINA

Santa Catalina is a popular tourist resort in the United States. It's also a popular surfing and diving destination with beautiful beaches, as well as a popular entry point to the Coiba National Marine Park.

Santa Catalina is tiny enough that you can stroll around it and see everything. This charming community lacks big monuments, man-made attractions, or shopping malls, but visitors will find friendly people, a laid-back environment, and sandy beaches with swimming, snorkeling, diving, and sport fishing. Santa Catalina is a surfer's paradise, with some of Central America's best and most consistent surf breaks. Horseback riding and birdwatching are available in the picturesque landscapes that surround the hamlet.

Source: www.sanblasdreams.com



Source: yodeviajes.com

SAN BLAS ISLANDS

The San Blas Islands are a group of islands off the coast of the Caribbean. The indigenous Kuna Yala tribe, who speak Tulekaya – their own language – governs them. The islands are becoming more touristy as a favorite backpacker destination on the route between Colombia and Panama. Even today, you may see daily life in an indigenous hamlet where electricity isn't always guaranteed and ATMs are rare. It is recommended that visitors bring enough of cash with them on their trip.

Sunbathing on the gorgeous, palm-lined beaches, as well as swimming, snorkeling, and diving amid hundreds of tropical fish species, are all part of the San Blas Islands experience. Hiking pathways through dense woodland provide glimpses of colorful birds and howler monkey cries.



Source: www.pinterest.com

BOCAS DEL TORO

The Bocas del Toro Archipelago is a group of islands, islets, and cays in the Caribbean Sea between Almirante Bay and Chiriqui Lagoon. The island group is located in Panama's northwestern area and is part of the district and province of Bocas del Toro, as well as an important city of the same name.

Water taxis and private boats make it easy for visitors to explore the islands, and Isla Colon is also accessible by ferry and plane, with an international airport. Bocas del Toro is a wonderful wonderland of wild jungle, national parks, and biodiverse habitats for a variety of birds and marine turtles, with some of the species and plants found nowhere else. Painted rabbits, green iguanas, and howler monkeys are among the endangered species.



Source: www.kayak.com



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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country that borders Haiti to the west on the island of Hispaniola. It is well-known for its beaches, resorts, and golf courses. Its landscape includes rainforest, savannah, and highlands, including the Caribbean's tallest summit, Pico Duarte. Santo Domingo's Zona Colonial sector contains Spanish landmarks such as the Gothic Cathedral Primada de America, which dates back 5 centuries.

Many tourists flock to the Dominican Republic because of its beautiful beaches, expensive resorts, and well-developed tourism infrastructure. The varied landscape, which spans from lush forests and mountains to semi-desert places, offers guests more than just a beach vacation unique alternatives.

Punta Cana, Puerto Plata, and La Romana beach resorts provide just what many package vacationers are searching for: a relaxing tropical getaway. Independent visitors seeking a break from the crowds can visit the Samaná Peninsula, the rugged interior, or less touristy towns and cities. In places like Cabarete, surfers and kiteboarders will find exactly what they're searching for.



source: www.kimkim.com

BAHIA DE LAS AGUILAS

Jaragua National Park's Bahia de Las Aguillas is a beautiful eight-kilometer stretch of coastline. This beach is one of the most pristine in the Dominican Republic, thanks to its shallow, clear, tranquil sea and white sand bottom, as well as a notable absence of tourists and development.

This location, located on the country's southwestern coast near the Haitian border, is remote to say the least. It takes at least six hours to drive from Santo Domingo. The closest town to the beach is Pedernales, which is over an hour distant by automobile, and the Dominican Republic's tourism infrastructure is among the country's least developed.



Source: summitour.com

ISLA SAONA AND PARQUE NACIONAL DE ESTE

While Parque Nacional del Este, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a tranquil haven for various plants, animals, and birds, most people are familiar with the park's Isla Saona beaches. This island is a popular day trip destination for visitors from Punta Cana and La Romana, two nearby resort areas.

When most people think of a tropical island paradise, they envision a soft-sand beach with turquoise water. Despite the lack of establishments on the island, it is a popular place during the day, with people arriving on catamarans and speedboats to relax in lounge chairs and soak up the sun.



Source: dehovi.com

JARABACOA

While many Dominican vacationers perceive Jarabacoa as a summer hideaway, foreign visitors see it as an outdoor adventure playground in the Dominican Republic's interior mountains. Rafting, hiking, motorcycling, and other sorts of exploration are all available nearby.

The climate is substantially milder than the coast at an elevation of nearly 500 meters, and evenings are often cool. It's worth visiting Jarabacoa if you're staying in the country for more than a week or two. If you're going between Santo Domingo and either Puerto Plata or Cabarete, this town is a good place to stop for a couple of nights.



Source: www.mustseespots.com

LA ROMANA

La Romana is a popular tourist spot in the Dominican Republic. There are several large resorts in this area, some of which appeal to more independent guests wishing to self-cater. The area's beautiful beaches are the major attraction.

One of the most popular things to do here is visit the Altos de Chavón, a reproduction of a 16th-century artisan's town where you may shop for crafts and souvenirs. The village is on its own, but if you don't have your own transportation, you can join an organized shopping tour.

Bayahibe, a fishing community with a public beach and the starting point for journeys to Isla Saona, located not far from La Romana. Another popular pastime in the area is golfing.



Source: www.travelpulse.com



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GUATEMALA



Source: descubrenuestraculturagi.com

Volcanoes, rainforests, and ancient Mayan monuments abound in Guatemala, a Central American country south of Mexico. The majestic National Palace of Culture and the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology can be found in Guatemala City, the country's capital. Spanish colonial buildings have been preserved in Antigua, which lies west of the city. Coffee fields and settlements surround Lake Atitlán, which was produced in a large volcanic crater.

Guatemala is a country with a diverse range of travel choices to appeal to adventurers, culture seekers, beach visitors, and vacationers. From the colonial architecture and cobblestone alleys of Antigua Guatemala to the Mayan ruins of Tikal, it is a cultural hotspot in Central America.

Small settlements in the highlands and along the beaches of magnificent Lake Atitlan provide opportunities for cultural immersion. Nature enthusiasts will be enticed by tropical jungles, active volcanoes, mountain lakes, cloud forests, coral reefs, and beaches.

Beaches suited for unwinding and finding privacy in a hammock can be found all along the coast. Markets selling local goods, mainly textiles, can be found all across the country, but they only run on certain days of the week.

MONTERRICO AND THE BIOTOPO

MONTERRICO-HAWAII (NATURE RESERVE)

Monterrico, a little coastal community with a laid-back vibe and a wonderful stretch of seashore, would appeal to anyone searching for some beach time and some nature. The terrain around Monterrico is hot and tropical, unlike the high inland regions. The beach is dominated by large waves and is not always suitable for swimming, but it is nevertheless attractive.

The Monterrico Nature Reserve, or Biotopo Monterrico-Hawaii, was established to conserve mangrove forests and sea turtles. It is home to a wide variety of birds and aquatic animals, including leatherback and Kemp's ridley turtles, and spans both land and sea. Boat rides through the marshes provide excellent possibilities for bird and wildlife observation, especially early in the morning.



Source: travelisimo.com

PACAYA VOLCANO, ANTIGUA

The Pacaya Volcano, which rises to more than 2,550 meters, provides a close look at volcanic activity. This volcano, located near Antigua, has been continually active since 1975, with lava outbursts changing its appearance on a regular basis.

Guided walks up the volcano and the option to roast marshmallows over hot spots are available on organized tours. It should be mentioned that hiking here is dangerous due to the active volcano. Horses are available if you wish to climb to the top with less effort.



Source: peakvisor.com

SEMUC CHAMPEY



Source: en.m.wikipedia.org

This breathtaking location, deep in the jungle, is tough to get but well worth the effort. Natural ponds in the river are created by a 300-meter limestone shelf, excellent for a brief plunge. The pools are a vivid green or turquoise tint. The water is quiet and warm, and the region is bordered by deep woodland that is home to a variety of wildlife.

Lanqun can offer tours to this location. A 2.5-kilometer stroll through the humid tropical heat or a bumpy 4X4 ride are the only ways to get there.

GRUTAS DE LANQUÍN (LANQUÍN CAVES)



Source: radiotgw.gob.gt

The Lanquín Caves are deep limestone tunnels northeast of Cobán that have an underground river with numerous lagoons and unusual rock formations. A segment of the cave can be toured, which includes some rough paths and dim lighting.

Thousands of bats make their home here, and their nightly mass exodus from the cave to eat in the neighboring woodland makes for an amazing spectacle. If you want to see this unique site, go on a tour of the cave in the late afternoon and then stay until sunset.

The caves, which are considered sacred by the local indigenous people, also house a religious shrine.

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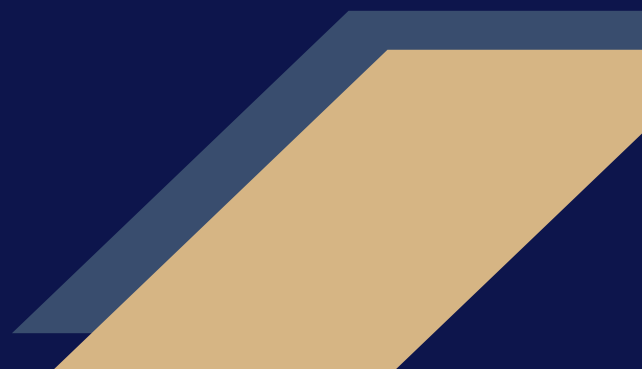
With the changing world which is now much more dependent on IT and without any doubt we are in a digital arena. But still we cannot forget the effective role of our achievement of past and specially in the third world countries where still it needs time to catch up with the fast moving first world IT industry. Our newly launched portals BIND where it stands for “Business and Investment Development” which basically caters for trade or Business Development between two parties or countries. BIND is a matchmaking portal for two parties looking for each other.

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The magazine which will be available electronically and the salient features are that it will involve government departments and authorities to identify and make public the opportunities countries and different ministries are offering regarding Business/ Trade and Investment and inviting the prospective Business houses to make use of these opportunities, irrespective of their domicile and geographical locations. Likewise Private sector also bring to the notice of such opportunities they are looking forward to expend their businesses to different geographical locations and may be keen to invest at some attractive locations and proposals.

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