

FREE GUIDE · NEXT DESTINATION AI

30 Quiet Places

to Visit in 2026–2027

Peaceful, less-crowded alternatives to the world's busiest spots — with the best months to go and a calm-travel tip for each.

Next Destination AI

Plan any of these trips free with Lizza, our AI travel planner

Travel calmer, not just further

Overtourism has made many famous places feel like queues with a view. This guide collects 30 places where you can still hear yourself think — beautiful, rewarding destinations that see far fewer visitors than their famous neighbours. For each one you'll find why it's quieter, the best months to go, and one tip for an even calmer trip.

Five habits for a quieter trip

- 1 Go in shoulder season.** The weeks either side of peak season often have good weather, lower prices and far fewer people.
- 2 Start early.** Most famous sights are calmest in the first hour after opening, and towns empty again after day-trippers leave.
- 3 Stay overnight.** Sleeping in a small town instead of visiting on a day trip shows you its quiet evenings and mornings.
- 4 Pick the neighbour.** Next to almost every famous spot is a lesser-known valley, island or village that's just as lovely.
- 5 Travel slowly.** Fewer bases and longer stays mean less time in transit — and less of the crowd's rhythm.

Make it your own trip. Tell Lizza where you'd like to go, how many days you have and that you want a peaceful, less-crowded itinerary — you'll get a day-by-day plan with a map, timed to avoid the busiest hours. Free to start at nextdestinationai.com/chatbot.

Seasons, opening times and access rules change. Please check official sources and local travel advice before you go. "Best time" is a general guide for calmer, pleasant conditions, not a guarantee.

Europe

01

Gjirokaštër

ALBANIA

A UNESCO-listed hillside town of stone-roofed Ottoman houses, with a fraction of the visitors you'd meet in Dubrovnik or Kotor.

Best time: April–June, September–October

Calm-travel tip: Stay in a restored family guesthouse in the old bazaar and walk up to the castle at opening time.

02

Lake Ohrid

NORTH MACEDONIA

Clear water, Byzantine churches and lakeside villages — a calm alternative to Lake Como or Bled.

Best time: May–June, September

Calm-travel tip: Base yourself in a village on the eastern shore, such as Trpejca, rather than central Ohrid town.

03

Piran

SLOVENIA

A compact Venetian-style harbour town on Slovenia's short coastline, far quieter than the Croatian islands nearby.

Best time: May–June, September

Calm-travel tip: Day-trippers leave by late afternoon — stay overnight for empty lanes and sunset on the sea wall.

04

Gozo

MALTA

Malta's slower sister island: rural valleys, salt pans and coastal walks, a short ferry ride from the busier main island.

Best time: April–June, October

Calm-travel tip: Hire a car or e-bike and explore the north-coast salt pans early in the morning.

05

Ribeira Sacra

SPAIN

Terraced vineyards and monasteries above river canyons in inland Galicia, well off the Spanish coastal circuit.

Best time: May–June, September–October (harvest)

Calm-travel tip: Take a river catamaran through the Sil canyon, then visit small family wineries.

06

Alentejo

PORTUGAL

Cork forests, whitewashed hill towns and wild Atlantic beaches — Portugal at its most unhurried compared with the Algarve.

Best time: March–May, late September–October

Calm-travel tip: Combine Évora with Monsaraz and the Vicentine coast; avoid the July–August heat inland.

07

São Jorge, Azores

PORTUGAL

A long, thin island of cliffs and fajãs (coastal flats) that sees far fewer visitors than São Miguel.

Best time: May–September

Calm-travel tip: Hike down to Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo and try the island's famous cheese.

08

Vesterålen

NORWAY

Dramatic Arctic islands just north of Lofoten, with similar scenery and much less traffic.

Best time: June–August (midnight sun), February–March (northern lights)

Calm-travel tip: Join a whale-watching trip from Andenes in summer.

09

Isle of Harris

SCOTLAND, UK

White-sand beaches and turquoise water in the Outer Hebrides — quieter than Skye.

Best time: May–September

Calm-travel tip: Book ferries early in summer, then slow down: many shops close on Sundays.

10

Northumberland coast

ENGLAND, UK

Castles, dunes and empty beaches between Alnwick and Berwick, plus some of England's darkest night skies.

Best time: May–September

Calm-travel tip: Check the tide times before crossing the causeway to Holy Island (Lindisfarne).

11

Abruzzo

ITALY

Medieval hill villages and national parks east of Rome — an alternative to busier Tuscany.

Best time: May–June, September–October

Calm-travel tip: Stay in an albergo diffuso (a hotel spread across a restored village), such as Santo Stefano di Sessanio.

12

Mani Peninsula

GREECE

Stone tower villages and rugged coves in the southern Peloponnese, away from the island crowds.

Best time: April–June, September–October

Calm-travel tip: Drive the coast road slowly and swim at Limeni or Kardamyli.

Asia

13

Iya Valley, Shikoku

JAPAN

Vine bridges, steep gorges and thatched farmhouses on Japan's least-visited main island.

Best time: April–May, October–November

Calm-travel tip: Combine with part of the Shikoku 88-temple pilgrimage for a slower Japan.

14

Phong Nha-Ke Bang

VIETNAM

Huge caves and jungle-covered karst in central Vietnam — a quieter side of the country than Ha Long Bay.

Best time: March–August (dry season)

Calm-travel tip: Book cave tours with licensed local operators, and cycle the rural villages.

15

Koh Mak

THAILAND

A small, low-key island in the eastern Gulf, with no large resorts and a strong eco focus.

Best time: November–April

Calm-travel tip: Rent a bicycle — the island is small and mostly car-free.

16

Sumba

INDONESIA

Traditional villages, savannah and empty beaches — the Bali of decades ago.

Best time: May–October (dry season)

Calm-travel tip: Visit traditional villages respectfully with a local guide, who can explain the customs.

17

Meghalaya

INDIA

Living-root bridges, waterfalls and cloud forest in northeast India.

Best time: October–April

Calm-travel tip: Allow a full day to walk down to the double-decker root bridge near Nongriat.

18

Trincomalee & the east coast

SRI LANKA

Calm bays and quieter beaches whose season runs opposite to the busier southwest coast.

Best time: May–September

Calm-travel tip: Snorkel at Pigeon Island National Park early, before boats arrive.

19

Khiva

UZBEKISTAN

A walled Silk Road city that feels like an open-air museum at dawn and dusk.

Best time: April–May, September–October

Calm-travel tip: Stay inside the Itchan Kala walls to see it before the day visitors come.

Middle East & Africa

20

Jebel Akhdar

OMAN

Terraced mountain villages, rose gardens and cool air, two hours from Muscat.

Best time: October–April (roses: April)

Calm-travel tip: Walk the village trail between Al Ain, Al Aqr and Wadi Bani Habib.

21

Damaraland

NAMIBIA

Vast desert landscapes, ancient rock art and desert-adapted wildlife, with few people.

Best time: May–October

Calm-travel tip: Stay at a community-run conservancy lodge so your visit supports local people.

22

São Tomé & Príncipe

SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE

Rainforest, cocoa plantations and quiet beaches in one of Africa's least-visited countries.

Best time: June–September

Calm-travel tip: Tour a historic cocoa plantation (roça) and spend a few nights on Príncipe.

Americas

23

Chiloé

CHILE

Wooden churches, houses on stilts and misty farmland on an island with a distinct culture.

Best time: December–March

Calm-travel tip: Try curanto (a traditional seafood and meat feast) and visit a few of the UNESCO churches.

24

Cuenca

ECUADOR

A colonial city in the Andes with a gentle pace, near Cajas National Park.

Best time: June–September (drier)

Calm-travel tip: Hike in Cajas in the morning, before the afternoon clouds roll in.

25

Cape Breton Island

CANADA

Coastal highlands, Celtic music and whale watching on Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail.

Best time: Late June–mid October (autumn colours late September)

Calm-travel tip: Drive the Cabot Trail clockwise for easier pull-outs on the ocean side.

26

Great Basin National Park

NEVADA, USA

Ancient bristlecone pines, a marble cave and exceptional dark skies, in one of the quieter US national parks.

Best time: June–September

Calm-travel tip: Book a Lehman Caves tour and stay for stargazing.

27

North Cascades

WASHINGTON, USA

Glacier-carved peaks and turquoise lakes, far less busy than Mount Rainier or Yosemite.

Best time: July–September

Calm-travel tip: Highway 20 closes in winter — plan for summer, and hike Maple Pass for the views.

28

Dominica

DOMINICA

The Caribbean's 'nature island': rainforest, hot springs and waterfalls, with no mega-resorts.

Best time: February–May (drier)

Calm-travel tip: Hike a section of the Waitukubuli National Trail and soak at Wotten Waven.

Oceania

29

Kangaroo Island

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Wildlife-rich coast and bushland a short ferry ride from Adelaide.

Best time: October–April

Calm-travel tip: Visit Seal Bay and Flinders Chase National Park; keep to dawn and dusk for wildlife.

30

Stewart Island / Rakiura

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's quiet southern island, mostly national park, with a chance to see wild kiwi.

Best time: November–April

Calm-travel tip: Take an evening kiwi-spotting tour from Oban.

READY TO GO SOMEWHERE QUIET?

Plan it with Lizza

Tell Lizza where you want to go and how long you have.

Get a calm, day-by-day itinerary with a map
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