

# Where To Go In 2018



travel  
local

# Contents

There are hundreds of wonderful destinations across the globe to travel to, but how on earth do you know which to choose? We've selected 12 destinations to help you get your holiday daydreams on track for 2018. Each one has been chosen for it's selected month because there's something special happening that we think you should see...

## January



Panama

## February



Argentina

## March



Jordan

## April



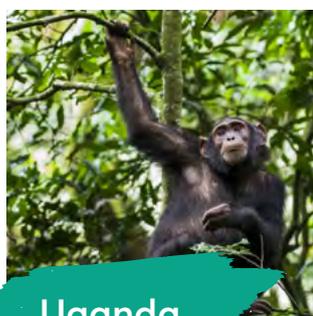
Japan

## May



Brazil

## June



Uganda

## July



Kyrgyzstan

## August



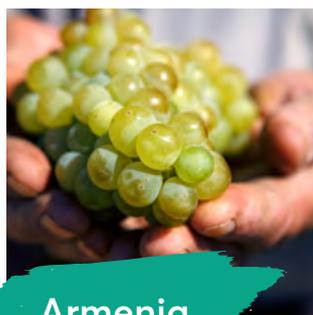
Indonesia

## September



Morocco

## October



Armenia

## November



South Africa

## December



Costa Rica

A close-up photograph of a saxophone, likely a tenor saxophone, with a blurred background of warm, bokeh lights. The saxophone is the central focus, showing its keys, pads, and the bell. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a vibrant and artistic atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the image in a clean, modern font.

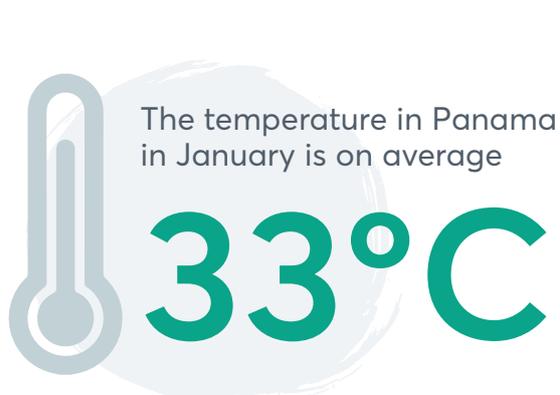
January

# Jazz Festival in Panama



**Panama** is a magical country, whichever way you look at it - endless tropical beaches, exotic wildlife and mountains covered in cloud forest make it a dreamy holiday destination. In January, it comes alive in the form of jazz! If you love music, you must visit at the beginning of the year in order to get your toe tapping at the annual Jazz Festival in Panama City, which will run from 15th - 18th January 2018. Since 2003, the festival has attracted over 300,000 fans of this soul-stirring genre from all over the world and is expecting 30,000 attendees in 2018. Mingle with internationally acclaimed musicians and fellow fans in a vivacious celebration - a perfect way to sample the lively Panamanian culture before continuing on with your holiday, whether that involves sandy sunbathing or seeking out sloths.

The diversity of Panama makes it a fantastic place to take a holiday. When you visit, make the most of the varied opportunities - adventurous travellers can delve deep into tropical cloud forest, **encounter indigenous peoples** and explore the notorious **jungles of the Darien**. Those looking more for relaxation can recline on sun-soaked sands with the waves of the Caribbean sea lapping the shore. And, history-buffs, don't forget that famous canal!



January in Panama is in the **dry season** and therefore, the high season.

[Plan your trip to Panama](#)

[Or find out where to go in February >](#)

February

# Folklore Festival in Argentina





**Argentina** is fabulous in February - the weather is at its finest and the best festivals are in full swing. Carnivals can be found scattered the length of the country, but the most exuberant celebrations can be found in Gualeguaychú, just a few hours' drive from Buenos Aires. Every Saturday in February is a party, and Monday 12th is a national holiday. Being not quite as big as Brazil's Carnival, it's less well-known to tourists, and you can immerse yourself in joyous music, colourful parades, convivial drinking and plenty of dancing. On a side-note, there is going to be a new flight connection from London to Buenos Aires four times a week, making it far easier to get to. The route will offer excellent value flights starting at £299 each way, and will run year round from February 2018.

In Argentina, the fun doesn't stop when the festival is over. Fill your holiday with some of the country's other impressive highlights, which could take you from the heart of one of South America's **hottest cities** to the icy chill of **Los Glaciares National Park**. Then there are the fabulous wineries of Mendoza, offering the indulgent temptation of **gastro heaven** and boutique accommodation. Fans of the outdoors should head for the scenic **Lake District** for adventure sports and great hiking among the stunning scenery.



The temperature in Buenos Aires in February is on average

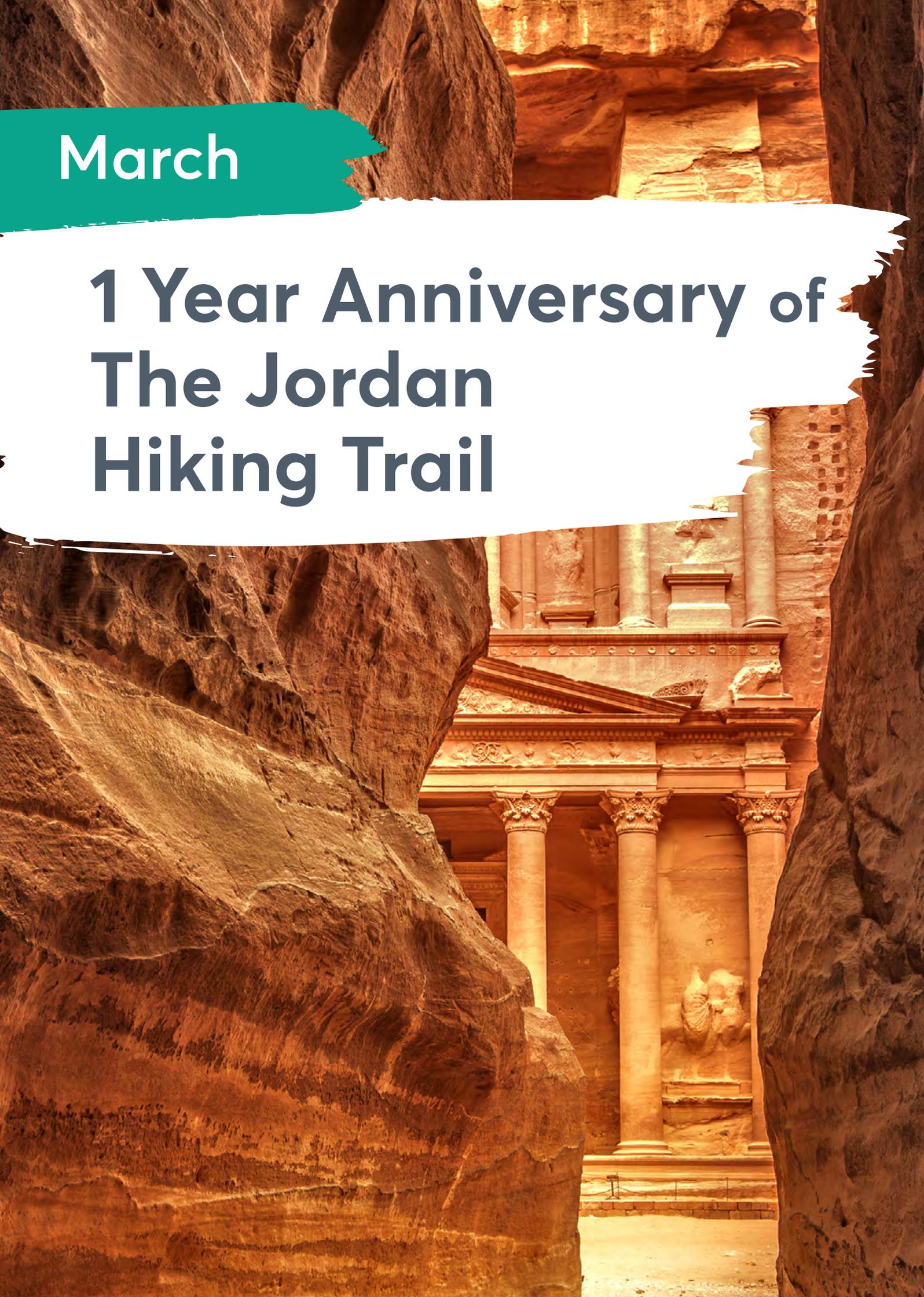
**23°C**



February in Argentina is in the **warm summer** and therefore, the high season.

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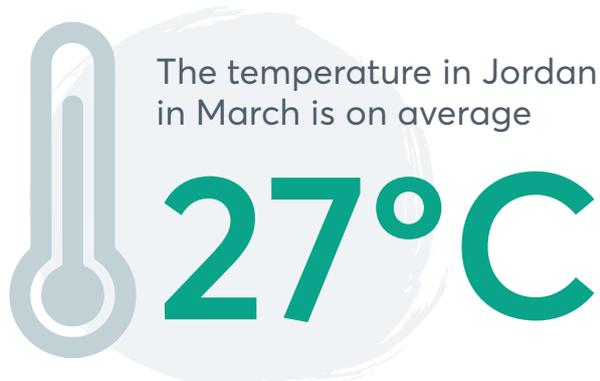
March

# 1 Year Anniversary of The Jordan Hiking Trail



On 31st March the Jordan Trail will celebrate one year since the inauguration of the long distance hiking route which connects Umm Qais in the north, via 650 kilometres and more than 50 towns and villages, to **Aqaba** on the Red Sea coast. It's a fabulous six week itinerary linking some of **Jordan's** most impressive sights on a breathtaking trek that allows a deep understanding and appreciation of this small yet exciting destination. Meander through the greenery of olive groves in the north, via the imposing Ajloun castle towards the dramatic rock walls of the desert around **Wadi Rum** and onwards to Little Petra and **Petra** itself. Shorter day hikes and multi-day sections are also easy to access, and the whole trail is well organised and waymarked.

**Jordan's** impressive array of attractions are packed into a relatively small nation, making it easy to fit lots in even if your trip is short. As well as exploring stretches of the Jordan Trail, there are the vibrant delights of **Amman** to explore, from the café culture to the quirky galleries and the nearby Roman ruins of **Jerash**. The **Dead Sea** is nearby, where the water is so salty, swimming becomes more of a float, and there are **historic and biblical** sites scattered all over the land.



March in Jordan marks the **beginning of the spring** high season.

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April

# Tsuwano Yabusame Festival in Japan





Thrill-seekers and history-lovers can unite when travelling to **Japan** in April. On the second Sunday of the month, every year, onlookers gather in Tsuwano Town for the Tsuwano Yabusame Festival. This is a thrilling spectacle, where mounted archers shoot blunted arrows at three targets as they gallop their horses down a 220 metre course. Yabusame (Japanese mounted archery) has been practised since the 12th century, and is a fine, and rather beautiful skill that was never lost despite the introduction of gunpowder in the 16th century. Be sure to bring your camera along, as the charging horses, slender curving bows, traditional warrior dress and backdrop of snowy cherry blossom all combine to make the winning shot for your holiday photo album.

Other than unique archery contests, Japan has a huge amount to offer travellers. View (or even climb!) soaring mountains, live the high life in bustling cities, **wander hidden green valleys**, pause by dramatic waterfalls and enjoy its **beguiling cultural heritage**, which is brought to life by the Japanese people.



The temperature in Japan in April is about

**14°C**



It is peak **cherry blossom** season, which is incredibly beautiful and therefore a popular time to visit.

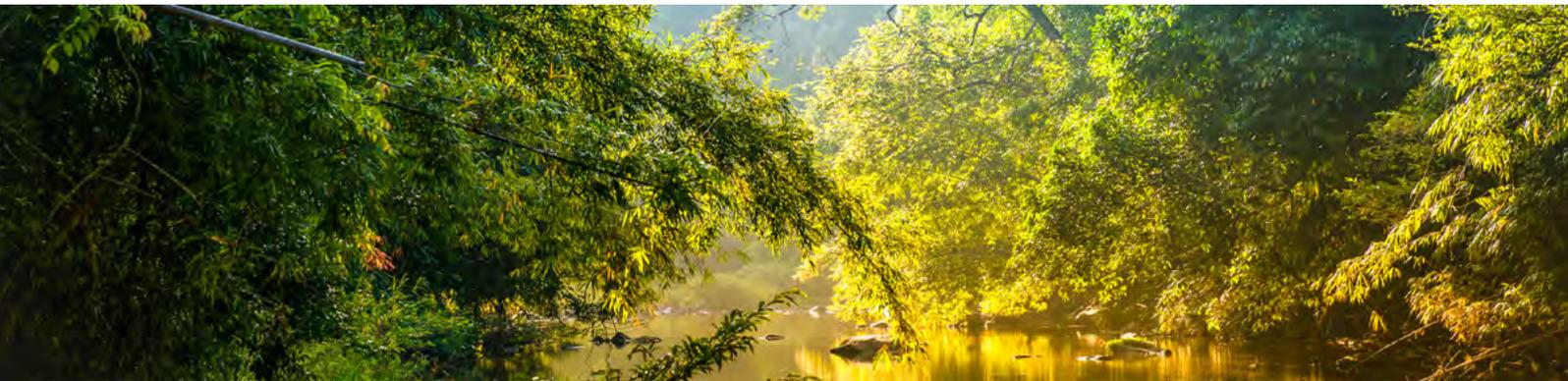
[Plan your trip to Japan](#)

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May

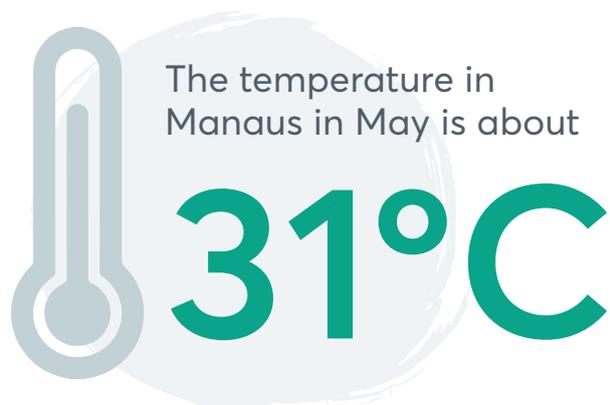
# Opera Festival in Brazil





Although it is situated deep in the Amazon rainforest, **Manaus** has been a hub of culture since the wealthy rubber merchants became rich from the 'rubber boom' and invested in their city's arts scene. The heart of the **Amazon** may not be the location you would expect to find a sumptuous Italianate theatre but Manaus has just that in the form of its opera house. There are various performances year round, but the annual Festival Amazonas de Ópera, which gets underway in March and runs into May, is a fabulous highlight on the nation's cultural calendar. Come to enjoy the opera, but also to marvel at the juxtaposition of this ornate renaissance building constructed with marble specially shipped over from Italy.

Immense and brimming with energy, **Brazil** is a force to be reckoned with. Take in the dramatic skyline of **Rio**, delve deep into the **Amazon** or lounge on the northeast's many glorious beaches. Brazil has multiple personalities and you can get to know them all with a trip taking in some of its many highlights, both urban and natural. While **Rio** grabs the headlines for its hedonistic atmosphere, **Salvador** has a similarly vibrant ambiance.



May is shoulder season but much of Brazil enjoys **good weather**. It's also the start of the **dry season** in the Pantanal, which makes it easier to spot the famous jaguars.

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June

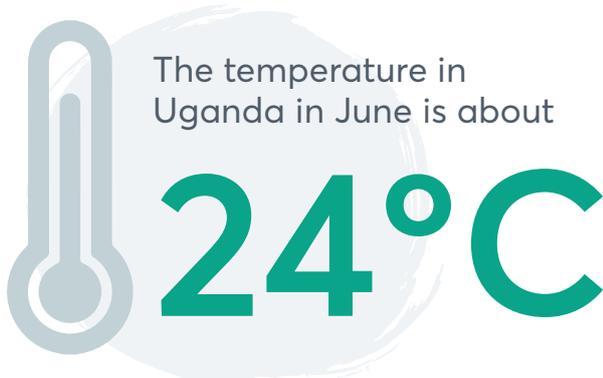
# Dry Season Starts in Uganda





June marks the start of the long dry season in **Uganda**, and makes the perfect time to catch sight of some of Uganda's most jaw dropping wildlife spectacles. From savannah dwelling lions and elephants to water loving hippos and buffalo, there are huge numbers of creatures enjoying the unique landscapes and **national parks**. The advantage of a **Ugandan safari** in the dry season is that the vegetation is less prolific and water is scarce, making the animals on your wish list easier to locate and more visible when you come across them. As well as the Big Five, make time to experience the showstopping wildlife experience of Uganda - the **primates**. Chimp and Gorilla tracking trips are thrilling, intimate, and unforgettable, and again, the dry season conditions you'll find in June are perfect.

Uganda is certainly best known for its **incredible wildlife**, and there are a huge variety of landscapes and reserves in which to go in search of it. But it would be a shame to visit Uganda and miss the chance to get to know Kampala, with its warm and bustling mood, or to skip the adrenaline sports hub of **Jinja** and the laid back lakeside gem of **Entebbe**.



June is the beginning of **high season** so make sure you book your gorilla trekking permit in advance.

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July

# National Horse Games in Kyrgyzstan





When you're thinking of a great summer holiday destination, **Kyrgyzstan** may not pop into your head – but it should! July is a particularly brilliant time to visit, as not only is it warm and sunny, but you can also coincide your visit with the National Horse Games. As a people, the Kyrgyz are incredible horsemen (and horsewomen), and their steeds play an integral role in their lives. In the distant past, the Kyrgyz people were even buried with their mounts, and children were named after horses as it was believed that evil spirits were afraid of these majestic creatures. The games are a perfect opportunity to show off their horsemanship. The gathering occurs in the Suisamyr Valley, and competitors take part in various contests from "Oodarysh" - essentially mounted wrestling - to "Kyz-Kumai", where a suitor chases his future bride for a kiss.

The games are just a small part of Kyrgyzstan's attractions in the summer. The vast steppes are lush, green and bathed in sunshine, while the surrounding mountains soar into forget-me-not blue skies, reflected in the glassy surfaces of great lakes. This is perfect hiking country, so don't forget to pack your boots, and of course there are ample opportunities to set out on glossy-coated, sure-footed ponies to **explore the lakes** and hidden valleys. If you do brave a visit in winter, you must try out the **ski resorts!**



The temperature in Kyrgyzstan in July is on average

**34°C**



July is the start of the **high season** in Kyrgyzstan

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**August**

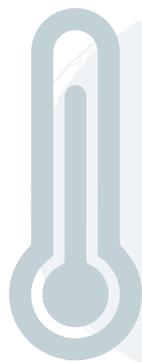
# **Independence Day in Indonesia**





One of the best months weather-wise across the vast archipelago of **Indonesia** is August, when the air and sea are balmy and rainfall almost completely stops across most of the nation. An August trip coinciding with Independence Day (Hari Merdeka in Bahasa Indonesia) on the 17th will herald the raising of flags, street parades and general merriment. The whole country turns red and white in honour of the Indonesian flag, and neighbourhood parties pop up all over the place - a great time to visit!

Join in the festival atmosphere, then set off to explore Indonesia's kaleidoscope of attractions. Admire ancient temples, hike up towering volcanoes, sun yourself on dreamy beaches or have face-to-face encounters with **dragons** - it's all here. Indonesia's largest island, **Sumatra**, is home to inquisitive troops of orangutans, while **Kalimantan** and **Sulawesi** are fascinating destinations as their populations have held onto their traditional culture.



The temperature in Indonesia in August is about

**32°C**



August is the middle of the **drier months** so it is definitely high season

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September

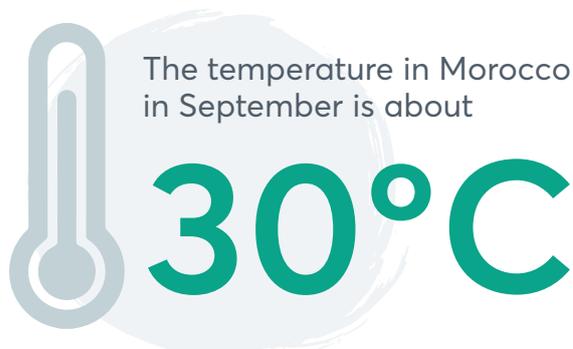
# Imilchil Wedding Festival in Morocco





Once the intensity of the **Moroccan** summer has eased, enjoy the moderate heat of September. This time of year brings the perfect climate for trekking the **Atlas Mountains** among the Berber villages and soul-stirring upland scenery. If you time it right you can take in the excitement of the Imilchil Moussem, a mountain festival which brings Berber communities together before the snows of winter cut them off. Amid dancing, music, feasting and general partying, the moussem has a more important role. Unmarried Berbers of both genders don their finest traditional attire and the flirting begins. It is not unusual for couples to sign a marriage contract before the festival is finished, promising to wed their chosen suitor. Visitors to the festival can expect to see many Berber people in ornate attire, dancing and singing and enjoying this chance to gather with other mountain communities.

September is a great time to tour this exotic and beguiling country. Explore the maze-like souks of **Fez and Marrakech**, delve into the delightful blue hill town of **Chefchaouen** or take the sea air in **Essaouira**. This is a country of artisans, meaning wonderful handicrafts and atmospheric shopping opportunities are a constant. The food is also a highlight, so why not try your hand at a **cooking class** while you're there?



Morocco is a year round destination, but September is **perfect for touring** as it's not too hot but the snow hasn't yet accumulated on the peaks of the Atlas.

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October

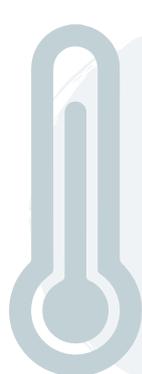
# Wine Festival in Areni, Armenia





In the village of Areni, October brings an exuberant mood in the form of the annual wine festival. Wine is of great importance to Armenians, and the **history of viticulture** here dates back many thousands of years. Winemaking here still continues largely using traditional, natural processes and the products are of high quality. In Areni, as in the whole of **Armenia**, the grapes are cut and brought in from the vineyards during October, and Areni festival celebrates the successful harvest. Traditional dancing, music, food and handicrafts accompany the ceremonial treading of the grapes, and over 100 wineries enter their bottles into competitions for the finest tipples. Armenian hospitality is legendary, as is its winemaking expertise, so you can't go wrong at Areni.

The first Christian nation of **Armenia** enchants in autumn with its bounteous harvests and blue skies. **Monasteries** are silhouetted against snow-dusted peaks and in the lowlands, deciduous trees are putting on their colourful display. On clear autumn days, the panorama of **mountains** reflected in tranquil **Lake Sevan** is idyllic, especially when viewed with **Sevanavank** monastery in the foreground.



The temperature in Armenia in October is about

14°C

Armenia is blissfully uncrowded all year round, and **autumn is the best** time to see the mountains as the haze of summer has dissipated.

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**November**

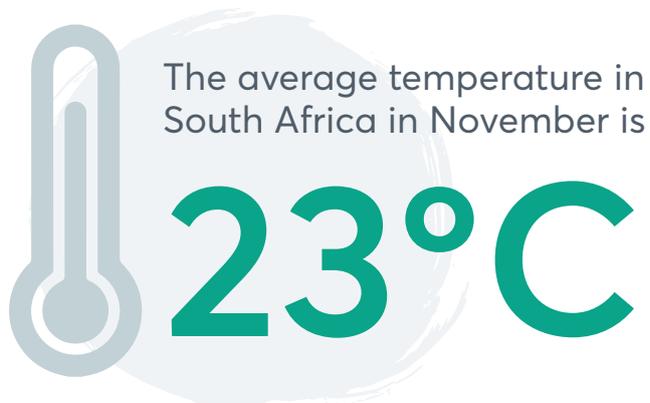
# **Prime Whale-watching Season in South Africa**





Wildlife lovers often flock to **South Africa** to see the wonderful creatures of the game reserves - it's what the country is best known for, after all - but you mustn't forget the whales! November is peak **whale-watching** season, and all along the east coast you can spot humpbacks and some lingering southern right whales as they breach and play close to the shore. Head to De Hoop Nature Reserve where you can tuck yourself away in pristine white sand dunes - they make perfect lookout points - or settle down in the luxurious surrounds of **Hermanus**, with its great vineyards to retreat to when you've had your fill of the coast.

Of course, South Africa has a whole lot more to offer than just its coast. The cosmopolitan city of **Cape Town** is a haven for foodies and culture vultures, Franschhoek and **the winelands** cater to the wine-lovers, and the Western Cape gets you well and truly off the beaten track, with spectacular seasonal flower displays. Head north to the **Kruger Park** and its surrounding nature reserves for some of the best big game viewing in Africa, or explore the desert landscapes of the Karoo.



November is shoulder season in South Africa, meaning fewer tourists, so **a great time to travel**. It is also peak whale-watching season for humpback whales.

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**December**

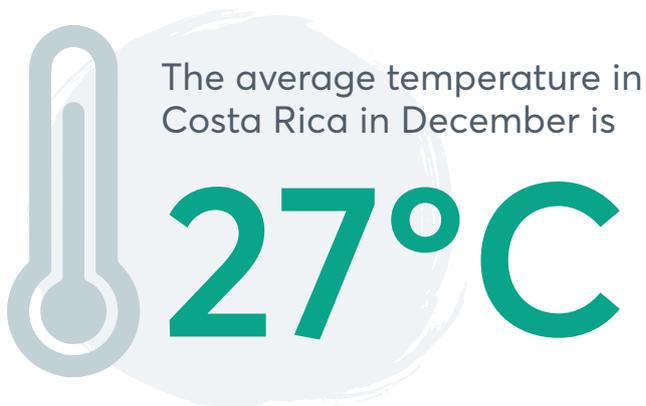
# **Festival of Light in Costa Rica**





December is party time in **Costa Rica's** capital, and midway through the month the Festival de la Luz (Festival of Light) kicks off the holiday season in exuberant style. Dazzling parades, fairy-lit floats, marching bands and fireworks are the order of the day as the fiesta wends its way through the evening streets of **San José**. Over a thousand musicians take part in the parade; many of them are school children who participate in the marching band contest. There are around a million spectators annually, all visiting San Jose to see the creative use of lights and lanterns to light up the parade, and it is indeed a breathtaking and uplifting experience which announces the arrival of the holiday season with panache.

**Costa Rica** may be small but crammed within its borders there is a whole world's-worth of **wildlife** waiting. Hummingbirds flit from flower to flower, monkeys roam in the jungle that shades the white **beaches**, and butterflies flutter around picturesque waterfalls. As well as exploring the pristine environment, there are **volcanoes** to climb, **adventure sports** available and surf hotspots to enjoy.



December falls in Costa Rica's **dry season** and coincides with the chilly holiday season for much of the western world, so it is correspondingly busy.

[Plan your trip to Costa Rica](#)

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*Rachel, UK*

"Experts in authentic experience"

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