

Go here next year, says Lonely Planet

By **Katia Hetter**, CNN
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10. California's Mount Shasta region is positively spiritual. Many Native Americans from the area see it as the center of creation. Naturalist John Muir was moved by his first sight of the snowy Mount Shasta volcano, saying famously that "all my blood turned to wine, and I have not been weary since." Climbing Mount Shasta's summit is only for experienced hikers but there are trails for every level.

(CNN) -- Think you need a passport to explore high art, exotic beaches and incredible natural wonders? Not so.

In a country of nearly 4 million square miles, there are plenty of new adventures for travelers right here in the United States.

[Lonely Planet's top 10 U.S. destinations for 2015](#) list includes cities marking important anniversaries, wide open natural spaces and hidden city gems that will soon be popular.

"I hope this list will excite travelers to explore places they hadn't thought about going," said Regis St. Louis, author of Lonely Planet's USA guide and contributor to the "Best in the U.S." list. "We have both surprising places on the list and places people have heard buzz about."

Lonely Planet editors hope the list will encourage people to explore. "There are lots of great things happening all over the country, and you should really come out and see it for yourself," St. Louis said.

To compile the annual list, Lonely Planet asks its U.S. staff, authors and contributors to nominate urban and natural spots, popular and lesser known sites, and locations that have something significant happening in 2015. The staff whittles the list down to the final 10, and a natural order often emerges, editors say.

Americans don't get as much vacation as Europeans, and [we also don't use all of our vacation](#). So why not put those days to good use and visit some of Lonely Planet's top destinations in the U.S.?

Here are the 10 spots that came out on top for 2015:

1. Queens, New York
2. Western South Dakota
3. New Orleans
4. Colorado River region
5. North Conway, New Hampshire
6. Indianapolis
7. Greenville, South Carolina
8. Oakland, California
9. Duluth, Minnesota
10. Mount Shasta region, California