

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

## 15 Best Places to Travel in December

Here are the best places to visit in December in the U.S. and around the world.



Snowy landscape of South Tyrol in the Dolomites. PHOTO: ROBERTO MOIOLA/SYSAWORLD/GETTY IMAGES

If you're like us, you're probably thinking, "December already? Where has the year gone?" It's not too late to end 2024 with a trip — even a short getaway to kick off the ski season or to relax on a tropical beach before the holidays arrive. We have ideas for destinations both nearby and far away, along with suggestions for the best hotels, resorts, and things to do. Whether you choose summer sun in Rio de Janeiro or winter snow in the Adirondacks, we hope you'll close the year with travel.

Here are 15 of the best places to travel this December.



## The Adirondacks, New York



Snowy landscape in the Adirondacks. PHOTO: REBECCA LAMBERTSEN/GETTY IMAGES

About five hours north of New York City but seemingly a world away in December, the Adirondacks boast snowy mountains, quaint towns, and the same gorgeous scenery that attracted wealthy guests during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [Lake Placid](#), host of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics, offers ski slopes, shopping, and restaurants. Nearby, [Saranac Lake](#) features a charming downtown, historical buildings, and a variety of winter sports, including snowmobiling. Families heading to the mountains for the holidays might enjoy a ride on [The Polar Express](#), a two-hour train route from Utica that lets pajama-clad children visit the North Pole and meet Santa. If your idea of a winter vacation involves cozying up in front of a blazing fireplace, you can find the perfect place to do it in the Adirondacks.

**Where to Stay:** [The Point Resort](#) in Saranac Lake includes 11 luxurious rooms within four rustic log cabins. An hour southeast, [The Lodge at Schroon Lake](#) is set on 36 acres with cabins, chalets, and hotel rooms. In Lake Placid, [High Peaks Resort](#) offers three different lodging experiences, including rooms overlooking Mirror Lake and on Main Street, while [Eastwind Lake Placid](#) is a stylish boutique option.

