VOGUE

TRAVEL

The Best Places in the World to Travel Solo

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There was a time in the not-so-distant past when the phrase "solo travel" was most likely to evoke imagery of Julia Roberts cycling wistfully down a grassy path in Ubud, or of Diane Lane dragging her suitcase toward a Tuscan villa. This cinematic (and perhaps a little idealistic) depiction of what it looks like to embark on a solo adventure has begun to fizzle out, and now, the notion of taking a trip with oneself isn't gawked at, but rather, quite common.

There's a certain sort of freedom that comes with traveling alone; the promise of complete autonomy, a flexible itinerary (or rigid, if that's your bag), and the very real opportunity for a revelatory experience that simply isn't on offer if you're trekking around with a group. Perhaps you're honoring a life milestone such as the loss of a loved one or a divorce—solo travel is great for healing. Or maybe it's merely a desire to reconnect with yourself in a beautiful setting. Whatever the backstory, there's a solo journey to meet you where you're at.

A few considerations stand out when choosing a solo travel destination, beginning with whether you choose to curate your own itinerary or to let an agency do the work for you (there are pros and cons to both). Next, you'll want to pick somewhere that offers a strong network of guides. "They are so key in imparting their expertise but also how to respectfully follow local custom," Black Tomato co-founder Tom Marchant says. "This is part and parcel to being a conscientious traveler." Also, an easy-to-use transportation system of trains, ferries, and buses is crucial, particularly if you're not comfortable renting a car. And lastly, countries that are regarded as being welcoming are worth prioritizing. "What unifies so many diverse cultures [that are] great for solo travel is they love to invite travelers into their world and their community and extended family," Marchant says.

With this in mind, we rounded up some of the best places in the world to travel solo in 2024, including far-flung destinations rich in culture, sun-soaked locales fit for an outdoor excursion, and even a few retreats tailored specifically to parties of one.

Ancient Wisdom in Greece

Courtesy of Euphoria Retreat

Greece's islands lure in travelers for the sun-baked landscapes and turquoise waters, but if you're not up for long ferry rides and droves of tourists, head for the Peloponnese peninsula instead. This lesser-known region is abundant in natural beauty and home to Euphoria Retreat, a luxury wellness resort that's located within the Unesco World Heritage site of Mystras. Solo travelers who are looking to work through a recent trauma or transition to a new stage of life can take part in the Inner Emotional Harmony program. Expect everything from sound healing and chakra balancing treatments to massages and transformation consultations.