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CASTLES OF VALLE D'AOSTA, ITALY | LEOKS/SHUTTERSTOCK

## THE 15 BEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO TAKE A BIG TRIP IN 2017

By [THRILLIST TRAVEL](#) January 3, 2017

You're not going to stick to most of your resolutions this year, for the same reason you'll be writing 2016 on your checks at least till February: The calendar changed, but you're the same person you've been for a while now. One way to fix that -- and to make a resolution you'll actually keep -- is to follow through on your perennial promise to see more of the world.



Where to go? Anywhere cheap. Somewhere your Midwestern twang counts as a semi-exotic accent. Or, to hell with it: Hawaii is never, ever the wrong answer.

But you also have the chance to chart something completely unexpected. We asked our writers for the places on the planet they'd recommend to someone who could only take *one big trip* this year, because, let's face it, most years even one is pretty damn good. They sent dispatches on lush beaches, urban crannies, and far-flung mountain hideaways. These are their best spots for making memories. Make 'em yours, or get moving boldly toward your own.



## Peru's Sacred Valley

*A quieter wonder of the world, just down the road from Machu Picchu*

About nine miles north of Cusco is the Sacred Valley, a lush landscape fed by the winding Urubamba River and flanked by a stand of glacier-capped mountains, many of which rise even higher than Machu Picchu. And yet Machu Picchu still tends to be the only reason that tourists scurry, heads down, through this marvel. Yet at such a loss! Back in the 1400s, the Incas built royal estates in the area. *They knew what was up.* This, my friends, isn't a place to pass through. It's a place to hunker. Lousy with Incan ruins, some of the most stunning views of your life, badass women's textile collectives, cobble-stoned towns where you won't be trampled by tourist hordes, and all the giant-kerneled *choclo* corn your heart will soon know it desires, the Sacred Valley is, *soles* to donuts, the

perfect place to get your adventure *and* your relaxation on, with radically different vistas to be seen within the span of a short drive.

Quick aside for the insane: Book a night in a transparent capsule hotel hanging off a mountainside and sleep 400 meters off the ground. Or opt for less hyperventilation and check out Inkaterra's Hacienda Urubamba where you can stay in a luxury *casita* built into a hillside and stroll the on-ground gardens that provide much of the produce for the restaurant. -- *Onnesha Roychoudhuri, Thrillist contributor*

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