



These Eight Secret Waterfalls Will Make Your Next Vacation Magic

Photographer: kapulya/Getty Images/iStockphoto

From Hawaii to Mongolia, these hidden delights will live on in your imagination.

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January 27, 2017, 3:05 AM EST

Niagara, Iguazu, Victoria Falls: They're some of the prettiest places in the world, but they're definitely not secret. And if you don't time your visit just right, you might end up having to elbow through crowds for the perfect photo op.

Truth is, getting a smaller waterfall all to yourself can be just as big a thrill, especially when you can jump in for a private swim, surrounded by nothing more than jungle thickets, imposing boulders, and the roaring soundtrack of mother nature's most dramatic work.

Here are eight secret waterfalls worth working into your next vacation.

The Machu Picchu Falls



Falls near Machu Picchu in Peru. Source: Inkaterra

As if Machu Picchu weren't already shrouded with mystery, the area immediately surrounding it is home to two little-known waterfalls. First is an unnamed cascade at the end of a walking trail on the grounds of the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, in Aguas Calientes; guides lead meditative twilight walks to the falls and point out pre-Inca petroglyphs along the way. Then there are the secluded Mandor falls, midway between the hotel and Machu Picchu. It'll take a half-day to hike there, but the trail is home to speckled-faced parrots and green jays, and Inkaterra's guides will gladly lead the way.

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