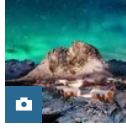
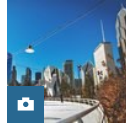




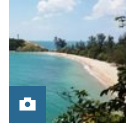
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The Best Places to Travel in Mexico and Central & South America in January



Courtesy of TDA Global Cycling

January is an action packed month in Mexico and Central and South America — here's where to go now.

KAREN CATCHPOLE JANUARY 05, 2018

January is an action-packed month in Latin America. In addition to excellent summertime weather, there are new openings and attractions that will excite everyone from culture hounds to adrenaline seekers, and from sybarites to shoppers.

Related: Why January Could Be the Best Time to Book (and Take) Trips

To determine the absolute best places to travel in the area, we tapped into a large pool of top tourism providers that specialize in this region. We also looked at popular annual events and noteworthy openings, sought out prime weather, and called upon a deep knowledge of travel in Mexico, Central America, and South America.

You'll recognize some of these destinations from our list of the 50 Best Places to

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Travel in 2018, like the buzzy Argentinean capital of Buenos Aires, and design-driven Mexico City.

But we scoured all of Latin America to find the best reasons to travel there right now, including a new 15-day bike adventure in Brazil, a natural phenomenon in Bolivia, the first helicopter tour of Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes, and world-famous orchid blooms in Peru.

From just below the border all the way to Argentina and Chile — two countries that extend to the bottom of the Earth — these are the best places to travel in South America, Central America, and Mexico this January.



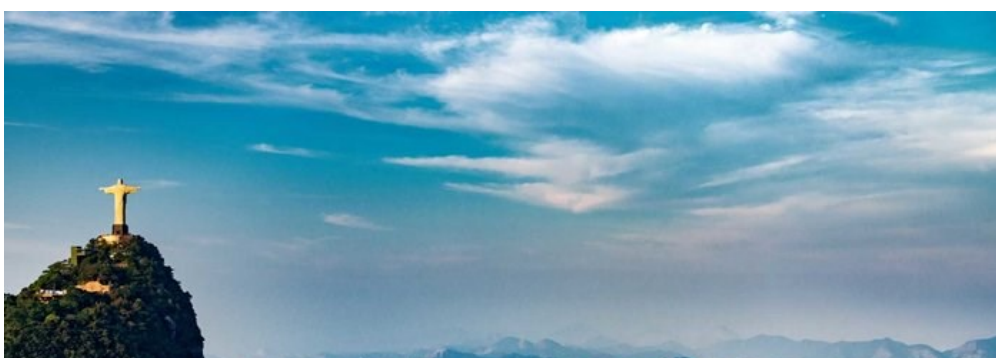
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Mérida, Mexico

The largest city in the Yucatán Peninsula was founded on January 6, 1542 — a date that is celebrated annually. This year's 476th anniversary celebrations will span three weeks beginning on January 5. Festivities will include concerts, art exhibitions, theater performances, readings, fireworks (this is Mexico, after all), Afro-Caribbean dances with the city's Chamber Orchestra, and the FILUX international light festival: a series of avant-garde light installations that lead visitors through the city's gorgeous historic district.

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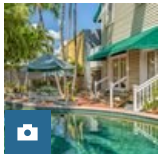
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Courtesy of TDA Global Cycling

Recife, Brazil

This month, TDA Global Cycling debuts the new Carnival tour: a 1,700 mile journey from Recife to Rio de Janeiro down the coast of Northeast Brazil, arriving just in time for Carnival. During the month-long tour (from \$9,400) riders will pedal past fishing villages, beaches, Atlantic rainforest, the Historic Center of Salvador de Bahia — a UNESCO World Heritage site — the Discovery Coast, and more. Rest days and good food (fresh fish, the national meat dish, *feijoada*, cold beer, and *caipirinhas*) keep you fueled. Two shorter sections of the tour are also available.



Courtesy of the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Aguas Calientes, Peru

It's orchid season in the Andes, and the gorgeous blooms are best seen on the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel's 12 lush acres. According to the American Orchid Society, the hotel's garden is home to the world's most diverse native orchid collection within a private setting. Admire the flora before a visit to nearby Machu Picchu, and then bed down in one of the property's 85 white-washed adobe casitas.