

# AFAR

By Mark Ellwood • November 20, 2025

## 10 Best Places to Visit in January

---

*Begin your year of adventure on the right foot—be it with an island treasure hunt, a final film fest, or a newly opened national park.*

Yes, we love making New Year's resolutions, too—only to fail the follow-through before the month is out. Why not make yourself a promise that's easy to keep?

Let's travel more in 2026. It's a life-affirming, horizon-expanding mantra.

We have some suggestions to ignite your wanderlust, whether you want to visit a newly accessible national park in North Africa, celebrate the art of the circus in an unlikely locale, or go treasure hunting on one of America's most charming barrier islands.

Here are the 10 best places to travel in January.



Tassili n'Ajjer National Park is finally open to tourists, in Algeria's Sahara Desert. Photo by Rostasedlacek/Shutterstock

## 10. Algeria

**January is great for:** adventuring through a newly reopened UNESCO site.

If you've always yearned to explore this lesser-trafficked corner of North Africa, now's the ideal time, as the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tassili n'Ajjer recently reopened after more than five years off-limits. It's an extraordinary chance to see some of the earliest evidence of human habitation, with rock art dating back as far as 12,000 years that includes depictions of large animals like antelopes, cattle, crocodiles, and humans.

If you'd like to experience a living connection with the past, consider visiting during Yennayer, or Amazigh New Year, on January 12. Communities across North Africa have celebrated this moment for more than 3,000 years, and it is a national public holiday in Algeria. Expect performances of *ahwash* and *ahidous*, the rhythmic call-and-response drum-backed dances that are core to Amazigh culture.

### Where to stay: Hotel Taghit Saoura

- **Book now:** [chaineeldjazair.com/saoura](http://chaineeldjazair.com/saoura)

The 59-room property sits amid towering golden sand dunes in an oasis in the arid northwest reaches of the country, receiving less than 2.5 inches of rain per year. Stay here for a simple, modern four-star hotel with an outdoor pool you can enjoy during days when the temps are usually in the high 60s.

### Insider Tip

Idle in the square around Makam el Chahid, the monument to those killed in the war for independence that sits on high ground in Algiers, says Explore Worldwide's Africa Program Manager, Antony Barton. "Sitting here with a coffee gives visitors a chance to take in the rhythm of Algiers from one of its most historic squares, with sweeping views of the Mediterranean."

<https://www.afar.com/magazine/10-best-places-to-travel-in-january>