

Where to Go Next: 11 Destinations Having Their Moment in 2026

Eclipses, centennials and cultural milestones converge with landmark hotel openings and new airline routes.

By [Paul Jebara](#)

Every year has its reasons to travel. But 2026 arrives with an unusual density of things that won't happen again—at least not in our lifetimes. A tapestry leaves France for the first time in nearly 1,000 years. A total solar eclipse crosses Mallorca at sunset, the sun just two degrees above the Mediterranean horizon. Architect [Frank Gehry's](#) final museum opens on a peninsula on the Arabian Gulf, two decades after he first sketched the plans. Route 66 turns 100. The Winter Olympics scatter across the Italian Alps in the most ambitious format the Games have ever attempted. And in September, Seoul becomes the only city where three major international art fairs run simultaneously, staking its claim as Asia's new cultural capital.

The infrastructure is keeping pace. Getting there has never been easier. Delta is flying its most extensive transatlantic schedule in history this summer, United is pushing into European cities that have never seen a U.S. carrier, and [Alaska Airlines](#)—newly armed with Hawaiian's widebody fleet—crosses the Atlantic for the first time. Meanwhile, [ultra-luxe hotels are opening in places](#) that have long deserved them and cities that already have everything except the right address. We sorted through the noise and landed on 11 destinations where timing, access and occasion align in ways worth acting on. Here's where to go in 2026.



Tipaza, Algeria. NurPhoto via Getty Images

Constantine and the Roman North, Algeria



3,000 years of occupation, zero crowds

Africa's largest country has long ranked among the continent's most unsung destinations, from Roman ruins that rival anything in Italy to a capital layered with Phoenician, Ottoman and French colonial sediment, all kept at arm's length by a famously complicated visa system. That's changing. Algeria now offers visas on arrival for travelers on organized tours, with electronic visas in the works as part of a national plan to boost annual

arrivals to 12 million by 2030. Travel operator Explore Worldwide launches *its first Algeria itineraries* in early 2026, including a northern route through Algiers and the historic inland cities, the regions where organized tourism operates most comfortably. (The U.S. State Department rates the country Level 2, "Exercise Increased Caution," with Level 4 restrictions for border regions and overland Sahara travel; reputable operators stick to licensed routes in the north.) Air Algérie's acquisition of domestic carrier Tassili Airlines should improve connections, with new aircraft arriving this year and a potential New York route under discussion. Most itineraries begin in Algiers, where the hilltop Casbah tumbles toward the Mediterranean, then move inland to Constantine, a city built on cliffs above the Rhumel Gorge and one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements on earth. Don't miss the Roman ruins of Timgad and Djémila nearby, both remarkably preserved and entirely free of the crowds that plague comparable sites in Tunisia and Morocco.

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