

Here Are the Travel Trends That Will Define 2026



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In just a matter of days, we will officially say goodbye to 2025 and usher in the start of 12 new months ripe with potential for travel and adventure.

For avid globetrotters, this is an exciting time of daydreaming and beginning to define what the year ahead may hold.

Travel industry insiders, meanwhile, have already given a great deal of thought to what 2026 has in store, at least with regard to the many intriguing and fascinating trends that globetrotters will either be leading or chasing.

What might those travel trends be? Get ready for everything from ‘Whycations’ and ‘Hushpitality,’ along with ‘Glowmads’ and ‘Shelf discovery’ — to name just a few of the travel trends we can expect in 2026. Read on for a look at 10 of the trends that will shape the coming year in travel.

Rail revival

Overland travel, such as buses, cars and trains, has been gaining ground in recent years for a variety of reasons including a growing desire among travelers to cut their carbon footprint amid worsening climate change.

Katy Rockett, regional director of North America for the adventure travel company [Explore Worldwide](#) says this development will continue in 2026 with more travelers opting for rail journeys over short-haul flights.

“We’re seeing phenomenal growth in rail-based adventures, which is a clear reflection of the wider trend towards more sustainable and experiential forms of travel,” says Rockett. “Travelers want to slow down and take in more of the journey itself, and rail provides that sense of adventure and connection to the landscape that flights can’t offer.”

Explore Worldwide bookings for rail journeys have surged 25 percent year-over-year overall. What’s more future rail bookings overall are up 41 percent compared with last year (2024). Among the fastest-growing trips are some of Explore’s most iconic rail adventures including the Simply Japan (up 42 percent year-over-year); India’s Kolkata to Amritsar journey (up 21 percent); and the Venice to Rome by Rail plus Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast (up 22 percent.)

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