



INSPIRATION

The 23 Best Places to Go in the U.S. in 2023

From the American West to vibrant islands in the Caribbean.

BY CNT EDITORS

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This is part of our [global guide to the Best Places to Go in 2023](#)—find more ideas on where to travel in the year ahead in [India](#), [Spain](#), [the U.K.](#), and beyond.

For most Americans, domestic travel has long been something of a rite of passage—packed car rides to [national parks](#), short flights to theme parks or beach rentals, and maybe some longer [milestone trips](#) to otherworldly places within the fabric of the American landscape (Alaska, Hawaii, the Rockies, Puerto Rico)—all checked off of a long list over the years. But recently, domestic travel became something more: a lifeline in a [pandemic](#), a reminder of how fun it can be to sow your travel seeds at home, and a phenomenon that's irreversibly transformed so many towns and cities around the country.

That's why this year we've expanded our forward-looking list of the best places to go by dedicating an entire iteration to the United States, and taking a magnifying glass to the most exciting places in our backyard; both buzzy up-and-comers, and longstanding favorites with a reason to shine again. Led by news and destination trends from this year—and those we can already see coming to fruition in 2023—this list is packed with exciting new builds and success stories, from culinary and hotel renaissances to reinvigorated neighborhoods and comeback kids in the aftermath of COVID-19's peak.

These are the 23 best places to go in the U.S. in 2023—from the American West to the U.S.-territory islands of the Caribbean. And don't forget to visit [our global list of international destinations to visit next year](#), vetted by *Condé Nast Traveler* editors based in the U.S., U.K., Spain, and India. —*Shannon McMahon and Jessica Puckett*

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Macon, Georgia



Prehistoric mounds at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park were constructed around 900 CE. Viktor Posnov/Alamy



A mural greets visitors at The Woodward Hotel, which opened in downtown Macon this fall. Jesse Horton

In Macon, Georgia's [Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park](#) is expected to be declared the newest U.S. national park in 2023. The site features earthwork mounds constructed around 900 CE, and houses more than 2,000 artifacts from both the Mississippi culture and the Muscogee Nation, who first founded Macon on the site of the sacred Ocmulgee Old Fields. That founding will be marked in 2023 to coincide with Macon's bicentennial, a yearlong celebration honoring these original Native American inhabitants and the enslaved people who helped build the city.

Since 2015 the city of Macon has seen 98 new businesses, 30 bars and live music venues, and 50 new restaurants pop up. Culinary highlights include [Vibez](#), [Dovetail](#), [Felicia's Cake Factory](#), and the iconic [H&H Soul Food](#). In February 2022 downtown's first boutique hotel, [Hotel Forty Five](#), opened inside an old bank, followed by nine-room [The Woodward](#), which opened next to the historic Capitol Theater in October 2022. The city's music history also runs deep—it's the hometown of Little Richard and Otis Redding, and was the home of the influential Capricorn Recording Studios in the 1970s. The studios are now [Mercer Music at Capricorn](#), a new recording studio and music incubator that includes a Macon music history museum, and over at Macon Mall a 10,000-person amphitheater is expected to be completed in 2023. —*D.L.*

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[BOOK A STAY AT THE WOODWARD](#)