Travel has the power to connect, inspire and even transform us. Peering over the edge of a crashing waterfall in Newfoundland and ascending sawtooth spires in the Italian Dolomites reveal how wondrous the world can be. But while travel should be a force for good, the past year has reminded us that it also has the potential to overwhelm and even harm the places we love, and many destinations are now imposing new restrictions as they grapple with the negative effects of [overtourism](https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20240925-the-summer-that-tourism-fell-apart).

n the BBC's inaugural guide to the best places to travel this year, we wanted to highlight the destinations experiencing the opposite phenomenon. Each of these 25 spots is not only welcoming visitors and offering incredible travel experiences, but also using tourism to support local communities, protect the environment or preserve their unique cultural heritage. We compiled the list with input from BBC Travel journalists and some of the world's leading sustainable travel authorities, such as the [**United Nations World Travel Organization**](https://www.unwto.org/)**,**[**Sustainable Travel International**](https://sustainabletravel.org/)**, the**[**Black Travel Alliance**](https://blacktravelalliance.org/)**and the**[**World Travel & Tourism Council**](https://wttc.org/)**.**