

## TRAVEL

### The 10 Cheapest Countries to Visit

Despite inflation, there are still great places to visit in the world where you can have an amazing experience without breaking the bank.



If you're planning your next solo or family vacation and have to stick to a strict budget, no problem. We've found the cheapest countries to visit around the world. Despite the effects of inflation on everything from eggs to electric cars, there are many places where the dollar will work in your favor, getting you an exotic trip for less than you might expect.

Our ranking is based on the average estimated daily cost you'll pay once you reach your destination, considering daily prices for accommodation and food for one person. The missing element is the cost of airfare, but flight costs vary so much depending on the time of year you're traveling, and where you're flying from, and to, that it's not helpful to factor those into our selections. If you want to know how to find and save money on flights to Europe, we've got some strategies for doing just that.

To inspire your flight hunting, here are 10 of the cheapest countries to travel to in 2024.

Data sources include TheGlobalEconomy.com, Numbeo's cost of living database, and Budget Your Trip.

## **10. Portugal**

Average daily cost: \$178

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$64

Average daily meals cost: \$73

Portugal is one of the best-value destinations in Europe. It's known for its seafood, wine, views, delicious custard tarts (pastéis de nata) and 300+ days of sunshine. Whether you head for vibrant Lisbon, to the sandy beaches of the south or for a wine and port tour in Porto, you'll get a reasonably-priced vacation while enjoying the sights and sounds that this friendly southern European country has to offer.

Portugal is also on our list of the 10 Safest Countries to Visit and Best Countries to Retire 2024.

## **9. Dominican Republic**

Average daily cost: \$144

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$88

Average daily meals cost: \$38

Only a two-hour flight from Miami and less than four hours from New York City, Americans are frequent visitors to this sunny, year-round Caribbean destination.

Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic makes up half of the second-largest island in the Caribbean (Hispaniola), and French-speaking Haiti makes up the western half. With white sand beaches, lagoons, and rainforests, there's plenty to explore while enjoying the natural beauty of the country.

## **8. Costa Rica**

Average daily cost: \$133

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$59

Average daily meals cost: \$41

Despite being the size of West Virginia, Costa Rica is a land of abundance and adventure. The quiet Central American country has miles of coastline on both the Pacific and Caribbean oceans, and with jungle lodges, rainforest treks, volcanoes and cloud forests, it boasts some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. With fresh food and fruit in abundance, you can truly enjoy the “pura vida.”

One study even named Costa Rica as the best country to retire in 2024.

## **7. Mexico**

Average daily cost: \$126

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$43

Average daily meals cost: \$42

America’s neighbor Mexico is home to Mexico City, the fifth largest city in the world. Not only does Mexico have several urban oases, but the North American country is also known for its beautiful beaches that are regularly listed as some of the best in the world. From ancient jungle ruins to iconic buildings, you’ll find pretty much everything you could want on a vacation — and for a good price.

## **6. Turkey**

Average daily cost: \$124

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$50

Average daily meals cost: \$31

Turkey is one of the most visited countries in the world but remains an underrated tourist destination. Straddling Europe and Asia, Turkey is a fabulous melting pot of cultures that can be seen in everything from architecture to cuisine.

There's an assortment of choices for visitors — from mountain ranges to beach-littered coasts, to the sprawling colorful metropolis of Istanbul, Turkey has everything. Despite the devastating earthquakes that hit the country in 2023, many tourist destinations in the west (hundreds of miles from the affected areas) are open and actively welcoming visitors.

## **5. South Africa**

Average daily cost: \$108

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$50

Average daily meals cost: \$36

One of the best reasons to visit South Africa, of course, is to go on a safari. The country is one of the world's best places to see the Big Five (elephant, buffalo, rhino, lion and leopard) and has several national parks and game reserves to explore. But that's not all the country has to offer. While in South Africa, make sure to walk among the wildflowers of Namaqua, hike up Table Mountain, go whale-watching or spend a day relaxing on the beach.

#### **4. Thailand**

Average daily cost: \$102

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$39

Average daily meals cost: \$30

Flights to this South Asian country can be expensive, but other costs make up for it. Known for its tropical beaches, jungle temples, Buddha statues and delicious restaurants and street markets in the bustling city of Bangkok, it's no wonder Thailand is the second most visited country in Southeast Asia.

#### **3. Indonesia**

Average daily cost: \$72

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$32

Average daily meals cost: \$27

Indonesia is home to Bali — often at the top of the rankings when it comes to the best place to visit in the world. But there's more to this paradise of a country than Instagram-worthy views. With over 17,000 islands, Indonesia is the world's largest island country boasting stunning beaches, volcanoes, jungles, orangutan colonies, giant Komodo dragons and vast mountain ranges. The best of all? Your money goes very far here.

#### **2. Vietnam**

Average daily cost: \$61

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$29

Average daily meals cost: \$14

Vietnam is a beautiful country with culturally rich cities and diverse landscapes to explore. There's a never-ending list of things to do while in this Southeast Asian country, like eating the best banh mi in Ho Chi Minh City, exploring the bustling streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter, visiting

the world's largest cave at Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park or taking a tour of Ha Long Bay. In Vietnam, you'll have the experience of a lifetime without going broke.

## 1. Laos

Average daily cost: \$18

Average accommodation cost for one person: \$5.68

Average daily meals cost: \$9.10

Laos is a landlocked country in Southeast Asia, but it still manages to have over 4,000 islands. From the islands of the Mekong Delta to the stunning waterfalls of the interior, Laos is one of the few countries in the world that hasn't lost its natural beauty to sprawling development. And yet, there's more than enough to tempt the most jaded traveler — from cookery schools for food lovers to climbing, caving and jungle treks for thrill-seekers and temples galore for those more culturally inclined.

**NYSUT NOTE: Whether you want to take our advice on one of these international trips or opt for a domestic vacation, the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation–endorsed [Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel](#) program offers special pricing on group tours for American travelers over 50 years old. You can save \$150 per person on published tours simply by being an NYSUT member!**

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