



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR YEAR OF TRAVEL

2025 VACATION CHEAT SHEET

Planning your global vacations for the year can feel overwhelming—so many places to go, so little time! That’s why I’ve created this 2025 Vacation Cheat Sheet to help you map out your getaways month by month. Though I always support spontaneity!

Whether you want to chase tropical sunshine in January, explore historic cities in May, or spot wildlife in Africa in November, I’ve got options for you.

This guide takes the guesswork out of travel planning by breaking down the best destinations each month based on weather, crowds, and unique experiences. From bucket-list safaris in Africa to coastal hiking trips and European beach escapes to ice-cave adventures, you’ll find the perfect trip for every season.

These picks are based on places I’ve been recently and loved—each offers something unique and magical depending on the time of year.

So, grab your calendar, start daydreaming, and let’s make 2025 a year of unforgettable adventures! 🌍✈️

TIPS

This year, travel is a little chaotic. Be sure to double-check:

 **Passport Validity** – Many countries require at least six months of validity beyond your travel dates, so check your expiration date early.

 **Visas** – Some destinations allow visa-on-arrival, while others require advance applications. Research visa policies well ahead of time to avoid last-minute surprises. Call or email your local embassy if you're not sure.

 **Flights & Connections** – Airline schedules are shifting frequently. Book early, allow plenty of layover time, and stay updated on any changes. I've started to buy flights only from the official airlines so that if there are issues, I can easily get refunds or manage re-bookings.

 **Packing Light** – My biggest tip is to travel light, with only a backpack if you can. I love plastic vacuum seal bags for my clothes. I also have a backpack that has an internal vacuum system.

 **Health & Safety** – Keep up with any required vaccines, medications, or health advisories for your destination. Many countries in Africa require proof of Yellow Fever Vaccination. Be sure to always carry this with you. I also keep my Covid vaccinations, just in case.

 **Travel Insurance** – With unpredictable delays, cancellations, and health requirements, comprehensive travel insurance is a must. I honestly kinda skip this because my health insurance covers international trips. However, I have a credit card that covers car crash issues, delayed baggage, and travel insurance.

February

WE START IN FEB BECAUSE I HOPE YOU'VE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS- NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS TO HAVE 2 WEEKS OFF.



CYPRUS

Mild weather makes it great for exploring ancient ruins and beaches without crowds.



RWANDA

Prime time for gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park during the low season (hotel costs are lower!)



US VIRGIN ISLANDS

Relax on picture-perfect beaches with sea turtles. Hurricane season runs between June-November.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

HOGSBACK

With its mystical forests and stunning scenery, hike and explore in Hogsback.



US ESCAPE

MIAMI

Escape winter with warm beaches, street art in Wynwood, and vibrant Little Havana.





March



ITALY

Springtime means fewer tourists and mild temperatures for exploring.



MOZAMBIQUE

Perfect for a beach getaway in Vilanculos.



ZAMBIA

Fantastic time for visiting Victoria Falls at its peak water flow (March-May).

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



PATERNOSTER

Visit the cute town of Paternoster with a stop in !Kha ttu Nature Reserve.

US ESCAPE



NEW ORLEANS

Visit post-Mardi Gras (February 17) jazz and Creole cuisine.

April



SPAIN

Experience Madrid, Seville, and so much more with easy train routes around the country.



SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

A literal hidden gem for tropical beaches and old Portuguese plantations with chocolate production still thriving.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

WILD COAST



Hike the Wild Coast in 5 days over dramatic landscapes and through rivers.

US ESCAPE

WILMINGTON



Escape to warm (but not humid) Wilmington for cute vibes, the Azalea festival, and walks along the boardwalk.



May



CUBA

Explore Havana's old town, shops, and sites before the old-timey feel leaves the city.



GHANA

Rich cultural heritage and great food to eat along the way.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



CLARENS

Clarens is a lovely little town that has plenty for you to eat, see, and hike.

US ESCAPE



MARYLAND

Explore Baltimore and DC, perfect for catching the Azaleas bloom.



June



FRANCE

Do a road trip along the South of France to see the Lavender fields in Provence in full bloom.



NAMIBIA

Best time for wildlife spotting in Etosha National Park with fewer crowds and perfect for morning dune walks.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



DURBAN

Escape winter and head to the beach in Durban.



US ESCAPE

MINNEAPOLIS

Explore art and Native American cuisine in this cool town.

July



ALBANIA

Visit the Albanian Riviera and then hike in the Accursed mountains.



SENEGAL

Spend a weekend in Dakar exploring the city and exploring Goree Island.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



VAAL RIVER

This peaceful getaway along the Vaal River is everything you'll need for a relaxing weekend.

US ESCAPE



ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Check out the blooming wildflowers, and road-trip through mountain towns.

August



MONTENEGRO

Visit the old city of Kotor and hike in the ice caves of and medieval towns.



TURKEY

Explore the historic city of Istanbul with great food and sites.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



DULLSTROOM

Have a lazy, foodie weekend or pack it full of activities.

US ESCAPE



WYOMING

Perfect time for Yellowstone and Grand Teton adventures.

September



PERU

From Machu Picchu to the Amazon Jungle, you can do it all in two weeks.



GABON

Ideal for visiting a hidden lake lodge and exploring Libreville.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE



SAFARI

Safari in Kunene (around Joburg) or Gondwana (around Cape Town).

US ESCAPE



MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Right off the coast of Massachusetts, the island is beautiful and has plenty of activities.

October



GERMANY

Oktoberfest and Black Forest towns like Freiburg.



RWANDA

Visit Rwanda's primates, go on safari, and take an epic bike ride.

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

JOHANNESBURG

Purple Jacaranda blooms are gorgeous across the city with plenty of photo tours to explore.



US ESCAPE

RICHMOND

Explore the city's old mansions and have unique eats.



November



GREECE

Avoid crowds and heat at the Acropolis while eating your way through Athens.



TOGO

The beginning of the dry season, explore Lomé and Wli (the highest waterfall in West Africa).

SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

BLYDE RIVER CANYON



This hidden Panorama Route is a 160km of views and hikes perfect for a week-long adventure.

US ESCAPE

SHENANDOAH VINEYARDS



Visit the wineries around Shenandoah in Virginia.

End of Year Vacay

If you're lucky, you'll be able to take off the time between Christmas and New Year's giving you around 10 to 14 days (depending on your work schedule). You can really take advantage of this and visit some cool places.



ST. LUCIA

Ideal for a tropical retreat with stunning beaches and luxury resorts. Special New Years dinners and crowd-free snorkeling.



COLOMBIA

A surprising destination for Christmas, Colombia has lots of decorations, parades, and special dinner menus. Don't miss the Christmas light festival in Medellin. *(coming on the blog soon)*



SOUTH AFRICA

Go to Cape Town, do the Garden Route, explore Joburg, and then go on Safari

NEED MORE ADVICE?

Subscribe to my newsletter where I'll give more deets for each location and updates on where I'm currently traveling.

LET'S MAKE YOUR 2025 TRAVEL GOALS HAPPEN!

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