

# Best Senior Travel Destinations in 2021

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With COVID-19 vaccination rates on the rise, it looks like this summer will be safer for travel than the last one. Especially if you and your loved ones are vaccinated, there's no reason you can't get out of the house and explore what the country has to offer.

No matter what your budget or style preference, there's a vacation destination for you. The following senior travel destinations are some of my personal favorites, in addition to those of our staff writers.

## 1. US National Parks

There's more than one reason for preserving natural beauty, and one of those is so people can continue to view it, savor it, and, ideally, go back home with a keener, and broader, appreciation of the value of the world around them. The U.S. currently has 59 protected areas. Having taken Amtrak up to Montana's East Glacier National Park, as well as having driven to the Grand Canyon, this writer can honestly state that, not only was the cost of these comfortable trips surprisingly low but the memories also remain indelible.

From California's Death Valley to Alaska's Denali, from Florida's Everglades to Utah's Canyonlands — nature's offerings are infinite, awe-inspiring, and deeply inspirational. For more details on what any of these parks can offer in the way of accommodations, tours, classes, and other recreational activities, check out the National Park Service website. Also, be sure to look into the national park pass for seniors.

## **2. Disney World, Florida**

It's forgivable if the first thing that comes to mind after reading "Disney World" are the sights and sounds of lots of excited children and long lines. With new COVID restrictions in place, however, park attendance is limited, and rigorous safety measures have been put in place, ensuring that guests will have a socially distanced and pleasant experience. True, Disney World does not

offer senior discounts on tickets or accommodations, but you may find discounts at other sites like AAA or AARP.

My personal favorite park would have to be Epcot. Older adults, especially, can appreciate the park's world showcase, which takes you on a culinary and visual journey through 11 different countries, including Mexico, Japan, and Italy. Even if you can't currently travel the world, Epcot creates as entertaining of a simulation as possible.

### **3. Sedona, Arizona**

When most people think of Arizona, their mind tends to conjure up images of cacti, rattlesnakes, and scorching hot temperatures. Departing from this image is the beautiful town of Sedona, Arizona. Less than a two-hour drive from the Phoenix airport, Sedona is a sightseer's dream with its beautiful red rock cliffs and rock formations. Oh yeah, and unlike other parts of the state, Sedona's average summer temperatures rarely exceed 90 degrees.

Some of my favorite activities in Sedona include hiking, bird watching, and Jeep Tours of the geological wonders. Especially for those into yoga and New Age medicine, Sedona has plenty of offerings. Additionally, if you simply want to kick back and relax, Sedona offers many hotels and resorts, and nothing beats taking in the stunning sunset at Cathedral Rock.

### **4. Alaska**

Although Alaska is one of the least frequently visited states in the country (possibly due to its distance), there's no beating the natural wonders of this state. For those inclined towards outdoor activities, Alaska contains 17 national parks. For those who want a more relaxing trip, Anchorage and Juneau offer all the creature comforts you'd expect.

With COVID rates trending downwards, it's also a great time to book one of the fabulous cruises along the Alaskan coast. They're a great way to take in the natural wonders while staying in resort-style amenities, not to mention you'll be enjoying this all in average temperatures around 70 degrees.

## **5. Pacific Coast Highway, California**

If you've ever considered hitting the road with your loved ones and exploring the country via RV, then there's one route I can't recommend enough: the Pacific Coast Highway. People often call California its own country in and of itself, and if you travel even part of this 600 mile stretch of coastal road, it's easy to see why.

The Pacific Coast Highway (PCH for short), spans all the way from San Francisco to San Diego, and it's considered one of the most scenic and beautiful roads in the world. From the glistening fields of wine country down to the surfing villages of southern California, there's something along this road for everyone.

## 6. Santa Fe, New Mexico

Long popular with tourists, this senior-friendly city only becomes more so as time goes on. Culturally, there are few cities of this size that could offer more and, thanks to technological advances, the ways to appreciate it also continue to grow. If you want to see the city and the surrounding area from a fresh perspective, then why not engage in the two-and-a-half-hour scavenger hunt from Tour Beaver.

While covering about one-and-three-quarters miles, and using smartphones or tablets, the players are fed clues and puzzles which they solve, while simultaneously exploring the city. If the scavenger hunt idea appeals to you, Santa Fe is only one of many cities that offer them. Keep in mind that there are those who say the best time to visit this lovely, sunny city is from September to November when the temperatures are most comfortable for the majority of folks. No matter when you go, though, take your sunscreen.

Retirement should be some of the best years of your life! Open yourself up to new experiences and new possibilities. You've worked to build the world we live in, now it's time to pick your head up and experience it.