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# 8 Tours That Are Better at Night

by Jordi Lippe-McGraw • March 3, 2017



Rotorua's Redwood Forest takes on a fairytale feel once the sun sets.

Sometimes you need to wait for the sun to set to see a new destination at its best.

There are technically 24 hours in the day, meaning you still have plenty of time to explore a new city or destination after the sun goes down. In fact, some of the most unique spots in the world are actually best seen under the guise of darkness—and a few folks around the world have caught on. Along with offering typical day adventures, a number of hotels and guides have created nocturnal tours perfect for the traveling night owls. Here are eight particularly awesome ones.

**Hike through New Zealand’s Redwood Forest.**

Located within Rotorua’s Redwood Forest, the Redwood TreeWalk is the world’s longest suspended walkway, consisting of 23 elevated swing-bridges and platforms that feature giant illuminated redwoods, some dating back 115 years. The [art-meets-nature experience](#) lets people walk through the glowing greenery while suspended 82 feet above the forest floor.

**Spot wombats on an Australian after-dark safari.**

It’s not rare to see a group of kangaroos roaming the grounds during the day at [Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley](#). But at night, many of the country’s smaller animals, like possums, wombats, gliding marsupials, and owls emerge, making it a prime-time to head out in an all-terrain vehicle to spot the wildlife when they are most active on the “[Bush After Dark](#)” tour.

**Kayak through a glowing bay in Grand Cayman.**

Kayaking during the day has nothing on this nighttime paddle. Only available certain times of the month when the moon is the least visible, the [Bioluminescent Kayak Tour](#) takes guests to the Bio Bay where glowing plankton (microscopic *pyrodinium bahamense*) light up the water. With every stroke, you’ll leave a glowing swirl of blue light behind. Similar tours are offered in the waters off the shore of Puerto Rico at [Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Beach Resort](#) and the [W Retreat & Spa, Vieques Island](#).

**Ride a horse under the moonlight in Tuscany.** Take the Italian countryside, add a horseback trail ride, and you’ve got the makings of a romantic outing. Now, schedule your ride [after sunset](#) and things will get storybook dreamy. That’s what the folks at [Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco](#) hoped, at least, when they created two different horseback riding itineraries that explore the rolling Tuscan hills. Departing after sunset, guests will pass historic villas and cypress dotted trails and encounter local animals like deer, hares, and wild boar. Travelers also have the option to stop at a local *osteria* or farmhouse for a late-night tasting of Tuscan delicacies. Swoon.



Debbie Monique Jolliff / Alamy Stock Photo

Spot baby turtles hatch in Antigua—if you're lucky.

**Watch Hawksbill turtles hatch in Antigua.** Getting the chance to see baby turtles in action makes getting up in the middle of the night worth it, right? The experts at [Jumby Bay \(Rosewood\)](#) think so. That's why during turtle nesting season (June to November), guests can sign up for "turtle watch" where you will receive a wake-up call after going to bed once the turtles are spotted, and head to the beach to watch Hawksbill turtles laying their eggs and the hatching of baby turtles.

**Learn about Mayan astronomy in Mexico.** Celestial objects were incredibly important to the Mayan culture and are still celebrated today. That's why during Day of the Dead [Sandos Caracol Eco Resort & Spa](#) in Riviera Maya hosts a special offering after sundown called [The Night Legends Tour](#) where guests walk through the Mayan jungle at night, learning about local legends and ancient beliefs. If you don't find yourself in Mexico during the yearly holiday, guests can still book the Mayan Astronomy Tour—available on a regular basis—and learn about how the stars and planets affected the ancient civilization.

**Walk through the Australian rainforest with torches.** When you hear about a tour led by a mad scientist, you book it. The [Cape Tribulation Beach Resort](#) offers guided night walks through the Daintree Rainforest with the property's Mad Scientist Guides, who lead torch-lit hikes to discover what lies in the forest beneath the blanket of darkness. Participants regularly see active nocturnal snakes, lizards, possums, bandicoots, birds, insects, and other wildlife. Visitors will also learn and discover more about the world's oldest rainforest including ancient plant species that existed alongside dinosaurs, bush tucker, medicines, and even plants to be avoided. How many nighttime activities can you also say are educational?

**View the stars from Portugal's highest peak.** Imagine hiking Portugal's highest peak, which rings in at 7,713 feet. Now do it at night. Unmarred by any surrounding light or pollution, the [overnight hike by Azores Getaways](#) takes travelers to the summit of Pico Mountain after nightfall to enjoy one of the best stargazing experiences in Europe. To make it even better, you'll reach the top of the mountain to catch the sun rise over island of Pico, overlooking the nearby Azorean islands of Faial, São Jorge.