

TRAVEL

## THE ABSOLUTE BEST PLACES TO GET AWAY THIS JANUARY



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KAANAPALI BEACH, MAUI | DIRKR/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

It's not the mega cheap shoulder-season gem that is September, but January is still a pretty stellar month to get outta town. Most people are all traveled-out after the holidays, and feeling the pinch of a credit card bill with an extra page. Yet your vacation days have been conveniently restocked, and the sheer variety of potential getaways is never better. Fly south for tropical beaches and that heady "wait, what month is this?" escapism, or go north, headlong into winter, for majestic mountains, cozy cabins, and après-skis.

It can seem a daunting trip, especially if you've been traveling in November and shopped for destinations to shake up the December holidays. But if you're feeling that touch of wanderlust this January, here are nine spots where the first month of the year is also the best to visit.



QUEBEC CARNIVAL | MARIDAV/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## Quebec City, Canada

Festivals in Canada are a legit travel bucket-list item, and Quebec City, with its charming winding streets, is one of our favorite cold-weather locales. When covered in a blanket of snow, it looks like a much chillier Disneyland, and is about as French as you can get without actually going to France. But the city is more than just atmospheric; the Québécois are also highly skilled at kicking the winter blues and making it *fun*. From January 26 through February 11, 2018, the annual Carnaval de Québec takes over the streets like a cold-weather Mardi Gras. You won't even notice the temperature as you strut around with a cane full of Caribou (the official drink of Carnaval, made up of port wine and whiskey), engage in some friendly ax-throwing, or roll down a sheet of ice inside a giant inflatable bowling ball to knock over some inflatable bowling pins.

Just down the St. Lawrence in Montreal, there's IglooFest, a 375-year-old festival on the city's old port that brings live music from January 18 to February 3. In addition to performances from the likes of Oliver Heldens and Sasha and Digweed, the festival has live outdoor showings of Slapshot (the far-more-vulgar, dubbed Québécois version) where crowds dress up like characters from the movie.