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Soft landings: great destinations for first-time travellers

Nothing beats the rush you get waiting on the tarmac for your flight overseas to roll down the runway. There's the excitement of the unknown, the jitters that come with taking on something new and the anticipation of what's to come.

Whether you've already begun to stretch your travel wings or have yet to take your passport for a spin, taking your first big trip is a rite of passage both life-changing and nerve-inducing. You can't predict what is going to happen once you touch down, but you can ensure a softer landing by choosing the right place to begin your adventure. Here are some of our favourite countries for first-time travellers.



Spot elk amongst Canada's epic wilds © Natalia Siatovskaia / Shutterstock

Canada

Canadians are renowned for being a friendly bunch – don't be shy, strike up a conversation and you might scoop up some insider tips for the locals along the way. Being such an enormous country, Canada offers a vast range of travel experiences: spot wildlife such as bears, bison, elk and moose in Alberta; catch the Northern Lights in the Northwest Territories; soak up a blend of North American and European city culture in Québec. Best of all, if you want to experience everything Canada has to offer all you need is time, as domestic flight, train and bus connections are plentiful and frequent.

Where to go next: With mountain ranges, desertscapes, bustling cities, cool coastal towns, lost-in-time regions and plenty of ground to cover, the USA is the perfect one-stop shop for a new traveller.