



Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal was my very first solo-travel destination and a forever favorite. It's perfect for backpackers, a group of friends who want to trek, or anyone interested in going off the beaten path. After being hit by an earthquake in 2015, many historical monuments and temples were destroyed and much of the city continues to be under reconstruction, but there's still so much to discover and experience from this country, which is so rich in culture. Start off in Kathmandu, the capital city, for a taste of the bustling streets and cows, tourists, street vendors and the never-ending honking of cars. Visit Patan Durbar Square, where you'll find the freshest (and best) samosas and fried cabbage fritters wrapped in newspaper. Swayambhu Temple and the Boudhanath Stupa are an uphill climb, but the view from the top is completely worth it. Views of the Himalayas and Mount Everest can be seen from Nagarkot, and you can catch sunrise from the roof of the Peaceful Cottage Hotel for the best view. No trip to Nepal would be complete without a seven-hour bus ride through the winding hills (on a dual-carriageway that should really only be a single road) to Pokhara, which is usually the starting point for the Everest base camp. Pokhara is much quieter and calmer than Kathmandu and is a great place to wind down near the end of your trip. Take a canoe ride on Lake Phewa, or paraglide over the Annapurna Valley—the choice is yours.



Seoul, South Korea

Seoul is 'seoul' cool. The city offers all my favorite things at once—street food, fashion, vintage clothing shops, endless Korean skincare products, and cute socks—what more could I ask for? Culturally, the city boasts a little bit of something for everyone. Whether you stroll through the traditional houses of Bukchon Hanok Village, rent a Hanbok (Korean Traditional Dress) and step back in time at Gyeongbokgung Palace, or stop by a food truck at Common Grounds as you watch a break-dance performance, there's always something new to experience. My absolute favorite is the Myeongdong district, best known for its shopping, nightlife, and food. Neon lights and shopfronts shine brightly, bringing the streets to life, and the smell of street delicacies wafts through the air. Octopus, anyone?



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