

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

## THE 50 BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL IN 2026



### DESTINATIONS FOR **BEACH VIBES**

#### RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO

This 200-mile swoop along Mexico's Pacific coast is a highlight reel of attractions: golden beaches, culturally rich small towns, and a growing number of luxurious resorts from which to explore. One of the biggest new developments is Nauka, a 900-plus-acre community that will debut at the end of 2025. It's home to Siari Riviera Nayarit, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, which will have 91 rooms, 34 residences, the region's largest swimmable beach, a Tom Fazio golf course, and both dining and wellness programs rooted in Indigenous Huichol traditions. Nearby Punta Mita, meanwhile, will welcome a new private beachfront residential community, Litibú Bay Club, at the end of 2026, joining the existing Four Seasons Resort, One&Only Mandarin, the St. Regis Resort, and [Rosewood Mandarin](#), which lies roughly an hour away. And that's not all: Both Montage and Pendry are slated to open resorts in the region in 2027. For all the options, a big knock on Nayarit has long been that it's difficult to reach—but that's also changing. In July 2025, Volaris launched nonstop flights from Los Angeles International to Tepic International Airport, the regional hub, which was recently revamped with a new terminal and extended runways; Air Canada and United will follow in December 2025 with nonstops from Vancouver and Houston, respectively. — [Alisha Prakash](#)