

Top 20 Locations in the World You Shouldn't Visit

We always focus on exciting places that you might possibly be able to go to someday, luxurious, sunny, glamorous places. However, today we thought it would be fun to talk about places that you will likely never be able to go to, or maybe just wouldn't want to. So now here are our Top 20 locations in the world that you shouldn't go to.

20. North Brother Island, New York, USA

<https://www.thetravel.com/20-forbidden-places-around-the-world-we-can-never-set-foot-in/>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_and_South_Brother_Islands_\(New_York_City\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_and_South_Brother_Islands_(New_York_City))

North Brother Island in New York's East River has had an interesting history. The island was once refuge to the survivors of the General Slocum, a steamship that burned and ran aground on the island's shores. Before that, it was the home of Riverside Hospital, which was utilized to isolate victims of infectious diseases. Most famously, it was the home of Typhoid Mary. Mary Mallon was the first case of typhoid in the U.S. infecting over 50 people. The island has long been abandoned and is now home to a sanctuary for birds with no possibility of access.

19. Bhangarh Fort, Rajasthan, India

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhangarh_Fort

Tourists actually can visit Bhangarh Fort during daylight hours, it is, after all, an excellent example of 17th century Rajasthani architecture. However, no one is allowed in the building from sunset to sunrise. This fort has had a long history of legends about ghosts and curses. In fact, it has been declared haunted by the Indian government itself. The stories are terrifying, and even more, locals claim anyone who does visit in the night mysteriously disappeared by morning.

18. Heard Island Volcano, Australia

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heard_Island_and_McDonald_Islands

Even though Heard Island is located between Madagascar and Antarctica, it is considered a territory of Australia. At a two week sail from the next major landmass, it is considered too remote for people to be safe. The last time humans set foot there was in 2000 when researchers discovered a huge lava flow coming from the island's volcano, and it has since

been closed entirely to human access. Without people, the island is home to a wide range of seals, penguins, and other marine birds.

17. Ilha Da Queimada Grande, Brazil

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilha_da_Queimada_Grande

Better known as Snake Island, Ilha Da Queimada Grande has been closed by the Brazilian Navy to anyone but government-approved researchers. It is estimated that there are 1 to 5 snakes per square meter, furthermore, the island is populated by some of the deadliest snakes in the world. The Lancehead viper is responsible for 90% of deadly snake bites in Brazil. Their venom melts the flesh around a bite, and they are only one of the species you will come across.

16. Pravcicka Brana, Czech Republic

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prav%C4%8DICK%C3%A1_br%C3%A1na

Previously one of the most identifiable and popular tourist spots in the Czech Republic, Pravcicka Brana, is Europe's largest sandstone arch. It had to be closed to visitors in 1982 as it was found that the foot traffic on the arch was accelerating its erosion. The erosion process still continues, and geologists say it is likely the arch will still collapse, but the ban slows the process and ensures people's safety.

15. Morgan Island, South Carolina, USA

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan_Island,_South_Carolina

Morgan Island bears the nickname Monkey Island in honor of the 4 thousand rhesus monkeys who call the island home. The island was previously uninhabited, but these primates were moved here from Puerto Rico due to a spread in their population of the Herpes B virus. The island is now a sanctuary, and only a handful of researchers are allowed on the island to ensure the safety of the people and the monkeys.

14. Surtsey, Iceland

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surtsey>

Surtsey is an island that formed due to volcanic activity between 1963 to 1967, making it one of the youngest islands in the world. With the appearance of the island, scientists decided to take advantage of this novel development and research how the ecosystems will form without human

interference. In the 50 years since the island was formed, only one mistake has ever been made, a tomato plant grown from seeds in a researcher's fecal matter. The tomato plant was promptly removed, and the island returned to its pristine state.

13. Chichen Itza Pyramid, Mexico

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza

You probably didn't expect to find one of the most popular tourist attractions in the world on this list, but here we are. You will still take pictures of Chichen Itza as millions still travel to this beautiful Mayan pyramid every year. While the site is still accessible for photos from the ground, a ban on actually climbing the pyramid was put in place in 2006 after a tragic accident that involved a woman tumbling down the pyramid during her descent.

12. Mezhgorye, Russia

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezhgorye,_Republic_of_Bashkortostan

Mezhgorye Russia is a closed town somewhere in the southern Ural Mountains. If you have any ideas about trying to sneak into this place, they will be dashed by the two battalions that surround it. What this location is exactly, and why it is so heavily guarded at all times is not known. Speculators believe it to be a storage or launch site for remotely controlled nuclear missiles. The Russian government is not going to tell us if that is true or not, but that will be a mystery we all have to live with.

11. Niihau Island, Hawaii, USA

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niihau>

Niihau island is an interesting case as it is voluntarily isolated. The island was purchased in 1864 by Elizabeth Sinclair, a Scottish farmer, and plantation owner. In 1952 a polio epidemic in Hawaii led them to ban entering or leaving the island. Since then, the ban has held. Niihau is still owned by Sinclair's descendants and is currently home to 170 people. In order to come to the island, you must receive special permission, which is not something easily granted to even the elite.

10. Poveglia, Italy

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poveglia>

Between Venice and Lido, lies the small island of Poveglia. Historically this island has been used to quarantine victims of the plague and any other infectious diseases. According to some reports, 50% of the island's soil consists of the human remains of the more than 160 thousand infected people that spent their last days there. Later on, the island housed a mental institution that had a widely unsavory reputation. Once the mental institution closed, the island became forbidden for any to enter.

9. Pluto's Gate, Turkey

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ploutonion_at_Hierapolis

Since ancient times the people of Hierapolis Turkey didn't go to Pluto's gate. According to ancient historian Strabo, no one could survive there. Strabo himself even experimented by throwing sparrows inside, saying when he threw them in, "they immediately breathed their last and fell." While legends, superstition, and an extremely foreboding name long kept folks from entering, the gate's deadliness was proven scientifically in 1965. Scientists found that there was a high CO2 concentration. When temperatures dropped at night, the CO2 became heavier than the air and formed a lake like the pooling of the substance, reaching peak density at dawn.

8. Area 51, Nevada, USA

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_51

According to the U.S. government, Area 51 is officially a U.S. air force base and CIA testing ground. While the conspiracy theories about Area 51 abound, the most popularly known is that of extraterrestrial enthusiasts who claim that Area 51 is where the government hides and researches extraterrestrial spacecraft and possibly even alien remains. Testing ground, or conspiracy coverup, whichever answer is the truth of the matter Area 51 is closed to all but very specific military and government personnel.

7. North Sentinel Island, India

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sentinel_Island

You can reach North Sentinel Island. That is, if you can get past the barrage of arrows shot at you by the native people, the Sentinelese. These indigenous people have fiercely guarded their island against any outside contact for thousands of years, and it's one of few places in the world

untouched by modern culture. The islanders are so determined to stop any approach that, in 2004, a helicopter, trying to assess damage from a tsunami, was shot at. To be fair, a helicopter must have looked wild to someone who never heard of air travel.

6. Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Norway

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svalbard_Global_Seed_Vault

Often referred to as the Doomsday Vault, the Global Seed vault has been designed to withstand explosion and earthquake. It was built in 2008 and holds over 100 million seeds so that if something were to happen to the world's vegetation, plant life could be restored. While it is located in Norway, every major civilization has given seeds for storage there regardless of political affiliations. So if you ever find yourself there, things have probably gone really, really bad.

5. Grand Shrine Of Ise, Japan

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ise_Grand_Shrine

The Grand Shrine of Ise is one of the most important places in Shinto religion. Built in honor of Amaterasu, goddess of the sun and universe, the temple is rebuilt every 20 years, to honor the Shinto belief of death and rebirth. The construction never utilizes a single nail, instead utilizing Japanese wood joining techniques. Since this site is so holy, only priests and imperial family members are allowed inside. All other visitors can only catch a glimpse over the wooden fence that surrounds it.

4. Lascaux Caves, France

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lascaux>

The Lascaux Caves in France are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but that does not mean they are open to the public. These caves house prehistoric art dating back to the Paleolithic Era. In the 60's they were threatened by a fungal invasion that occurred due to the large number of visitors. Ultimately it was found that any human presence was a threat to the 900 precious cave paintings. It was at that time that the site was closed to anyone except security guards who are only allowed inside once a week for a few moments.

3. Fort Knox, Kentucky, USA

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Knox

Commonly known as one of the most heavily guarded places on earth, Fort Knox has actually become a colloquialism for something being inaccessible. Home to over half of the U.S. gold reserves, the security measures put in place are mind-boggling. As an example, no one person can gain access to the gold vault. It takes several combinations to open the vault, and each staff member is only allowed to know one, so they can never enter the vault alone. Furthermore, the building itself is made to be able to withstand any sort of attack with walls of concrete-lined granite reinforced by steel.

2. Vatican Secret Archives, Vatican

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_Apostolic_Archive

The Vatican's Secret archives hold many classified documents related to the Catholic Church. These documents reportedly go back to the 8th century, with 53 miles of shelving the archives hold everything from account books to letters from artists and heads of state. They even hold the excommunication papers of Martin Luther. Researchers who want access to these archives must obtain special permits and agree to limitations, often only being able to access one document ever. Needless to say, conspiracy theorists the world over would love to get access to these archives.

1. Mausoleum Of Qin Shi Huang, China

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausoleum_of_the_First_Qin_Emperor

The site of Emperor Qin Shi Huang was discovered in 1974. The portion of the tomb that was excavated housed the famous Terracotta Army. It was after this discovery that both opponents of the excavation and experts on excavation realized that modern technologies would not allow them to unearth the tomb without destroying it. To preserve the tomb and in respect of the dead, the Chinese government shut down the site forbidding anyone from entering. That makes it one site that not only you can't go too, but no one at all can.

OUTRO

No matter how much you may want too, these are 20 places you really shouldn't ever make travel plans for. While you probably won't ever be able to go yourself, we can sure admire just how crazy it is that some of these places even exist!

Do you think we missed anything that should have made the cut? We'd love to hear from you in the comments below! Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow on Twitter to receive all the latest videos and lists. Don't forget to like and subscribe if you enjoyed the video, and we'll see you next time.