




6 Places Where the U.S. Dollar Is Really Strong Right Now

 by Sebastian Modak
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The U.S. dollar has had its ups and downs. I have a distinct memory of being a student passing through London on a layover, handing over a \$100 bill at a bureau de change, and feeling instantly deflated when 50 pounds came back. For many travelers, some parts of the world are just prohibitively expensive; for Americans, that included most of Europe. But over the past year the euro has weakened significantly in relation to the dollar, and it is cheaper than ever for Americans to finally start crossing places off that [European bucket list](#). But Europe's not the only place where the dollar will get you far. Here are six places around the world you should visit right now, while our fickle global economy is on your side.



1/6 Spain

1 USD = 0.88 EUR

The euro has been hovering around this favorable rate since mid-2015—but as recently as 2014, it was down to 0.72, making trips to Europe very expensive for Americans. Now, with Europe cheaper than it's been since 2003, we recommend a trip to Spain, which generally is more affordable to begin with than some of its neighbors. Consider doing a food tour: whether you're in San Sebastián for [its Michelin-spangled scene](#) or in Barcelona (pictured) for [a local drink](#) that you'll want to take home by the barrel.

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2/6 Mexico

1 USD = 17.27 MXN

There's never a bad time to take a trip to Mexico (well, hurricane season isn't great), but it will be a lot easier on your wallet this year than it was a year ago, when a dollar only translated to about 15 pesos. Tulum (pictured)—where, despite its rise in popularity, it's still possible to [get off the grid](#)—is an obvious destination. But Mexico's not all about a cold beer on a white sand beach: Its capital, Mexico City, is [having a moment](#) right now. The city offers [a culinary scene](#) that is combining tradition with innovation and [museums that celebrate its rich history](#) and forward-looking art scene.



3/6 South Africa

1 USD = 14.94 ZAR

It's not cheap to get to South Africa from the United States—although if you pay close enough attention, you can find some [great deals](#). Once you make it there, you'll be getting almost 15 rand for every dollar you exchange, as opposed to 12 a year ago. Spend a few days in [Cape Town](#) (pictured), for a balance of nature and city life (don't skip the [Table Mountain views](#) or [eating in Woodstock](#)). If you have the coin, migrate out of the city to stay in [an all-frills private game reserve](#). Whatever your itinerary, now's the time for a South Africa trip: It might just [change your life](#).



4/6 Colombia

1 USD = 3017.46 COP

Most of Latin America is a great deal for dollar-carriers right now, but we recommend a trip to Colombia, both because of the year-to-year change in the exchange rate (a dollar was equal to 2600.62 Colombian pesos last year) and also because the country is experiencing a renaissance of sorts, in [food](#), [art](#), and technology. [Bogotá](#) (pictured) and [Medellín](#) are worth visiting, to see two cities on the rise. Also be sure to head to the more remote regions of Colombia—once off-limits for security reasons—to see wonders like the Valle de Cocora, home to [the world's largest palm tree forest](#).



5/6 New Zealand

1 USD = 1.45 NZD

Just two years ago, the U.S. dollar and the New Zealand dollar were almost at parity (1 USD got you 1.16 NZD in April 2013)—the gap has grown since, and there's never been a better time to finally take that trip to the other side of the world. The South Island is [an Instagrammer's paradise](#), and a great place to go to satisfy your nerd-dream of [trekking through Middle-earth](#). But New Zealand isn't all about being wowed by nature—Auckland is rated [one of the world's most livable cities](#) and Queenstown, which serves as [a great launching point for outdoor adventure](#), also has [a food scene](#) that will make you never want to leave.



6/6 Argentina

1 USD = 14.62 ARS

Of all the countries on this list, Argentina offers the most savings for dollar-carriers. The value of the dollar has nearly doubled in the past year: This time last year a dollar got you just 8.82 pesos. An added boon for American travelers to Argentina? The Argentine government recently [removed the \\$160 "reciprocity fee"](#) for U.S. citizens. Buenos Aires (pictured)—the equal parts quaint and bustling capital—should be your starting point. Insanely affordable wine and steak, [polo tournaments](#), and [the biggest art fair in South America](#)? Count us in.