

Travel

Here's a list of a load of places that are live streaming or creating virtual tours; so from watching the Northern Lights in Canada, to the sunset on the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland, to wandering through the picturesque rainforest of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, we got you covered:

- **National Parks** - four amazing National Parks are available [here](#). From the cold icy glaciers of Alaska, to the fiery volcanoes of Hawai'i National Park - these are some of the most amazing virtual tours!
- **Machu Picchu, Peru** Many details of how the Inca site was constructed are still a mystery. Built in the Andes at 2,430 metres above sea level around AD1450, Machu Picchu was created without wheels or animals to transport the huge stones up the mountainside. A series of 360-degree images on [YouVisit's virtual tour](#) explore various areas of the site. The tour also includes a voiceover guide with information on the architecture, history and resident alpacas. For a bird's-eye view, head to [Air Pano](#) for stunning interactive images, including from the summit of Machu Picchu mountain.
- **Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro** Standing 30 metres tall on the summit of the 710-metre Corcovado mountain and visible from all over Rio, Christ the Redeemer is the world's largest art deco statue. As with some other entries on this list, this tour on [Google Arts and Culture](#) uses the [Street View](#) technology to allow visitors to "walk around" the site. As the sun sets behind misty clouds, the view from the end of the platform walkway looks out across the city, including Ipanema and Copacabana beaches and Sugarloaf Mountain, which is dwarfed from this great height. Or check it out at different times of day, [with these 360-degree shots](#) from above.
- **Pyramids of Giza, Egypt** On the edge of the desert where the sand ends and modern Cairo begins, the pyramids of Giza were constructed around 4,500 years ago as grand tombs for the pharaohs. With walking routes around the site, this [virtual tour](#) shows the magnificent structures from near and far. This includes two of the largest pyramids ever built – the Great Pyramid (147 metres) and the Pyramid of Khafre (136 metres) – plus the Great Sphinx to the east.

- **Eiffel Tower, Paris** See one of the world's most visited monuments on [this interactive tour](#), which takes travellers up to the viewing platform of the 324-metre tower – give or take 18cm, which is how much the iron contracts and expands by – depending on the ambient temperature. Additional immersive digital exhibitions explore its construction, from 1887-89, with photos of the first glamorous Parisian visitors. There are also 360-degree shots showing [a helicopter's view](#) of the tower against the city skyline.
- **Angkor Wat, Cambodia** Angkor Wat, “the city of temples”, is the largest religious monument in the world, originally built as a Hindu temple complex dedicated to the god Vishnu in the first half of the 12th century, but gradually transformed into the centre of worship for [Buddhism](#) in the latter part of the same century. This [virtual tour](#) explores several of the magical temples, including the five towers of Angkor Wat itself; the pink sandstone Banteay Srei; and Ta Prohm (as seen in the 2001 film Lara Croft: Tomb Raider), where nature has reclaimed the ruins. For a glimpse of the living city as it would have been in the 13th century, the [Virtual Angkor](#) project includes 360-degree video simulations created collaboratively by archaeologists, historians and CGI artists.
- **Taj Mahal, India** Built as the resting place for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, this symbol of eternal love is considered one of the most beautiful buildings ever created. The 17th-century white marble “crown of palaces” in Agra, north India, combines Persian, Islamic and Indian architectural styles and took 22 years to complete. The [interactive digital pathways](#) include routes around the mausoleum itself, reflecting pool, paradise gardens and ornate red sandstone mosque. [Aerial 360-degree images](#) soar above the lotus-topped dome and minarets for a view over the Yamuna River.
- **Stonehenge, UK** The prehistoric site of Stonehenge in Wiltshire dates back 5,000 years. It was originally a simple earth enclosure used for cremations, with the ring of standing stones added around 2500BC. The stones include large sarsen blocks that archaeologists believe were brought to the site from Marlborough Downs (20 miles away) and smaller bluestones from Preseli Hills in Wales, a confounding 140 miles away. The [English Heritage virtual tour](#) includes a 360-degree interactive image from the centre of the site, with pop-out videos on its excavation, conservation and design, including as a site for celestial observation. Other [interactive CGI images](#) give more information on its construction and the landscape at different periods in its history.

- **Petra, Jordan** One of the oldest cities in the world, Petra was occupied thousands of years BC, though it is believed the spectacular sandstone city was built in the 3rd century BC by the Nabatean Arabs. It's rose-coloured buildings have been viewed by the world in films such as The Mummy Returns and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, though around 85% of the city remains underground, yet to be excavated. This [online tour](#) includes a guide narrating the interactive walk around some of Petra's most iconic monuments. It heads through a narrow gorge called the Siq, passing tombs, temple ruins, an enormous monastery and Al Khaznah, the famous building whose elaborate facade is carved into the gorge wall.
- **Colosseum, Rome** Once seating between 50,000 and 80,000 spectators who came through 80 entrances, the Colosseum was the world's largest amphitheatre when it was built between AD70 and AD80 for sporting events and gladiatorial combat. Around two-thirds of the structure has been destroyed in the 2,000 years since but the remaining ruins are one of Italy's most popular attractions. [Take a walk inside](#), around the various levels, or fly overhead in these [360-degree images](#).
- **Chichén Itzá, Mexico** There are many strange and wonderful architectural features within the ancient city of Chichén Itzá on Mexico's Yucatán peninsula. El Castillo pyramid (also known as the Temple of Kukulcan, a serpent deity) at the centre has a combined 365 steps ascending its four sides. Twice a year, on the equinox, the steps cast a shadow in the shape of a serpent on the north section, which connects to a snake head sculpture at its base, meant to depict Kukulcan. The [360- aerial images](#) explore several of the Mayan ruins, including the pyramid, the Temple of Warriors, the observatory and the nunnery.
- **Icehotel, Swedish Lapland** Aurora photography company [Lights over Lapland has created experiences](#) for those suffering wanderlust to virtually travel to the Icehotel in Swedish Lapland. The 360-degree videos allow viewers to visit the local Arctic wilderness, meet local huskies and reindeer, go dogsledding and reindeer sledding and even join a Northern Lights hunt.

- **Cliffs of Moher, Ireland** Fancy watching the sun set over these picturesque peaks? You can take a virtual tour of the famous Irish geological landmark, which captures 360-degree views and even has virtual reality headset capability for a fully immersive experience. cliffsofmoher.ie/virtual-visit-tour
- **Central Park, New York** NYC's green centrepiece is available to tour online. Not only does it show you the sites, it also comes with a guide who talks you through significant events in Central Park's history as you "travel" from the West 72nd entrance. youvisit.com/tour/centralpark
- **Ibiza, Spain** Ushuaïa Ibiza, an open-air club on the hard-partying Balearic Island, has launched #StayAtHomeSessions – a re-stream of some of 2019's best DJ sets from Hï Ibiza and Ushuaïa Ibiza, to bring the party atmosphere to the homes of ravers around the world. The first session was launched on 21 March, featuring Solardo, Davide Squillace, Camelphat, Nic Fanciulli and Andrea Oliva. The streaming sessions allow users to invite friends to join them online. More virtual events are also in the works. facebook.com/ushuaiaibiza
- **Grand Canyon, Arizona** There are plenty of pictures of the famed canyon online, but get a little deeper with a VR archaeological tour. This allows armchair travellers to explore and learn more about the history behind the canyon's formation by clicking on different geological features. nps.gov/features/grca/001/archeology
- **Yosemite National Park, California** Experience this natural wonder in real time by clicking through to its webcams. The views include Yosemite Falls, the view of the Half Dome from the floor of Yosemite Valley, and vistas from the High Sierra captured at 8,000 feet. nps.gov/yose
- **Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado** One of the best things about being in the great outdoors is the way you experience it with all your senses. Rocky Mountain National Park has allowed virtual visitors

to use their ears rather than their eyes, with an online “sound library” that features an array of birds and wildlife found in the park.

nps.gov/romo

- **Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming** Fancy climbing a mountain? You can try out an e-climb with Grand Teton National Park, navigating your way to the 13,770-ft summit (minus the effort). Viewers can also discover the geology and history of the Grand Teton massif along the way, and learn more about the native plants and wildlife. nps.gov/grte
- **The Acropolis, Athens** One to tick off your bucket list, bringing the wonders of Ancient Greece to the comfort of your sofa. A dream destination for classical history lovers, the Athens Acropolis is the home of the world-famous Parthenon, and has been admired by tourists for centuries. With the tour you can enjoy 360° videos that provide a fascinating insight into Ancient Greece. [Athens Acropolis Virtual Tour](#)
- **The Royal Academy, London** Sensing Spaces was described by The Guardian as “the most ambitious architectural exhibition by the Royal Academy for decades, occupying its ample main galleries with installations the size of houses”. This virtual tour of the Royal Academy allows users to explore the exhibition. There are six separate galleries within the virtual tour, and high-quality 360° photography gives users a real taste of the exhibition which was conceived to allow visitors to “draw their own conclusions” - so they can determine for themselves what each space means to them, and how they use it. Discover it here: [The Royal Academy Virtual Tour](#)
- **Palace of Versailles, Versailles** The Palace of Versailles has opened it's fabled 'Hall of Mirrors' to all, allowing an interactive stroll through the historical site. Walk in the footsteps of Marie Antoinette and inspect the gardens which spread over 800 hectares, complete with dazzling fountains. With more than 18,000 artworks to discover online this is not an opportunity to be missed. Discover it here: [Palace of Versailles](#)
- **Take a virtual trip across Japan** Bummed that your Olympic dreams are on hold? Check out this [360-degree VR movie](#) from the Japan National Tourism Organization, which takes you on a wide-ranging tour of the country that features everything from bamboo forests to sushi making. If for some reason you're looking to introduce additional chaos to your life right now, you can watch this [live feed of Shibuya Crossing](#), a popular Tokyo “scramble crossing” where pedestrians cross in all directions at once. You might also enjoy this live feed of a [Kyoto cat](#)

cafe, or this live feed of white storks during hatching season, or this incredibly dope VR footage of port town Mochimune. Feeling like we're forgetting something ... hm. Oh! Cherry blossom live feeds. Lots. Of. Them!

- **See the cherry blossoms in Washington**, DC Reports of the beloved National Cherry Blossom Festival being canceled have been slightly exaggerated, as the organizers have rallied by making this year's festival a virtual one. Through April 12, you can take a virtual tour of the blossoms with a park ranger as your guide, watch videos of what the artists booked for the festival had intended to perform live, and, of course, calm your nerves via a 24/7 cherry blossom cam. All that's missing is the allergy flare ups.
- **Hike the Great Wall of China** Walking along the Great Wall has been at the top of many "vacation goals" lists for centuries before hashtags were invented. Now, you can take a virtual hike in lieu of actually exerting physical effort. This virtual tour spans six and a half miles of the wall between Jinshanling and Simatai, a stretch known for having some of the most quintessential views in China.
- **Get a glimpse of the northern lights** The upper reaches of Manitoba are a place where social isolation is kind of just the norm, but there's a big tradeoff: It's a prime viewing spot for the Northern Lights. And thanks to the folks at Polar Bears International and Explore.org, you can stream the spectacular natural fireworks show without trudging through the snow.
- **Explore the natural wonders of Chile** You can now download Chile 360, a free app that will help you virtually explore wonders from the Torres del Paine to the Atacama Desert to Easter Island. The National Historic Museum of Chile is offering virtual tours, too. And in very excellent news, you can enjoy the European Southern Observatory's virtual tour of the famed astronomical observatory in Santiago. If you happen to have a VR headset, there's a whole other world of experience open to you there, but those of us doing this from our phones should jump to this link and choose from the VR options that follow -- for soothing views of the brightly colored galaxy above, I recommend La Silla.
- **Tour literally dozens of World Heritage Sites** Google Earth is offering 3D virtual tours of 30 iconic World Heritage Sites. Taj Mahal? Yes. Sphinx? Yup. Stonehenge? Why not! Choose your own adventure. You'll start with a zoomed-out view of planet Earth, from

whence you can click on any of the flagged locations and zoom in from a space-station view to a bird's-eye one. Or, you can scroll through the list of sites that appear on the right side of your screen -- the first one you'll see is the Pyramid of Khufu in Egypt. Boom, there you are, on the street at the Great Pyramid's base, right next to the mule carts and tourists.

- **Plus all your favorite national parks** Google Earth is also offering 3D virtual tours of 31 national parks, from Acadia to Zion. The process here is similar to the way you explore World Heritage Sites, although for this one the flagged locations you'll see from "space" do have nice lil photos of the respective parks instead of just that orange dropped-pin thing. Choose from there or from the list on the right hand side of the screen, and you'll be promptly zoomed down into the park of your choice like one of those 3D IMAX movies. From there, scroll around the screen to get a panoramic view of where you should be planning your next big road trip in 2021.
- **Stand at the front of a full-steam-ahead steam train in Norway** Look at this thing go! If you have 15 minutes to spare, which I know a lot of you do, I very much encourage you to spend them watching the conductors-eye-view of this steam train barrel through the highest-elevation station on the Norwegian rail network.