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The Bridger Mountains near Bozeman, Montana.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Explore these overlooked cities to find history, mystery

Kathleen Wong USA TODAY

When planning a vacation, many travelers consider the most trending or perennial destinations, only to find out everyone else had the same idea. ● As a result, their trip involves waiting in long lines or searching for a restaurant that caters to locals with affordable menu items. ● There are a slew of slept-on domestic destinations, however, that provide the same level of activities, food, history and arts and culture to enjoy – just without the crowds or high price tags. ● To help travelers decide on which hidden gem to visit next, the travel experts at luxury vacation rental service Wander released a ranking of the 10 most overlooked U.S. destinations.

In May, the experts analyzed data from Google searches, TripAdvisor, Instagram and Numbeo to identify hidden gems in the United States, based on lists from media outlets like CNN and Yahoo. Specifically, the team analyzed the number of restaurants, museums, landmarks and more along with factors such as safety and cleanliness.

These cities are the nation's top 10 hidden gems.

10. Springfield, Illinois

Located three hours away from Chicago, Springfield is a history buff's para-

dise. Not only is the capital of Illinois set along the historic Route 66, but it also was the home of Abraham Lincoln when he became president.

Travelers can visit places significant to the 16th president, like touring his former home at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and seeing his final resting place at the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site.

9. Williamsburg, Virginia

Williamsburg offers more than just its place in history as the capital of colonial Virginia and the epicenter of the

American Revolutionary War. There are plenty of museums and historic attractions to visit, but the city also offers theme parks such as Busch Gardens, ghost tours and several art museums.

8. Bozeman, Montana

Bozeman may be known as a gateway town to the ever-popular Yellowstone National Park, but it's a destination all on its own. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the rustic city's endless adventures, such as hiking, fishing and mountain biking, before relaxing at the natural hot springs or one of the several locally owned distilleries.

7. Vancouver, Washington

Not to be confused with the city in British Columbia with the same name, Vancouver, Washington, is a riverside city right above Portland, Oregon. As one of the first permanent settlements west of the Rocky Mountains, the city has a historic charm while also offering plenty of outdoor activities like hiking.

6. Bowling Green, Kentucky

Just 60 miles north of Nashville,

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Trump gets positive rating in 25 states

2 states flip to give president net negatives

Kinsey Crowley
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump received a positive approval rating in 25 states, according to Morning Consult, which gathers polls over the course of three months to get a look at state-level data among registered voters.

The September update has two fewer states with net positive approval ratings than the same firm's report in August. North Carolina and Nevada are the two states that have flipped to give Trump a net-negative approval rating since August's update.

Georgia is the only 2024 swing state

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Georgia is the only 2024 swing state where President Donald Trump has a positive approval rating, according to Morning Consult. MEHMET ESER/MIDDLE EAST IMAGES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Corn fungal diseases threaten crop yields

Julie Ingwersen
REUTERS

CHICAGO – High levels of fungal disease are lurking in corn fields across the Midwest, threatening to reduce yields of a record-large crop and cause headaches for farmers during the autumn harvest, growers and crop experts said.

The outbreaks are a blow to farmers in the world's biggest corn-producing country as they struggle to make money due to low grain prices and rising costs for fertilizer, seed and other inputs. Farmers had hoped to produce the biggest possible yields to offset low prices, and crop diseases put that plan at risk.

"I've never seen disease as severe as I've seen this year," Iowa State University plant pathologist Alison Robertson said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projected in August that farmers would produce a record-breaking yield of 188.8 bushels per acre. However,

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