

NJDMAVA Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging



For many, summertime often means vacation time! Since we are almost halfway through summer we thought we would take this opportunity to share with you some interesting facts about a few places where people are, and are not traveling!

Do you know which country is the most visited in the world?



France!

France is the most visited country in the world with a record breaking 82.6 million international visitors in 2022!

Due to its rich history and iconic landmarks it has been the most popular tourist destination in the world for more than 30 years.

Not only does France have countless amazing restaurants, it also offers famous landmarks like the Eiffel tower, the Louvre museum, the Palace of Versailles, the Notre-Dame cathedral, the beaches of the Côte d'Azur, and more. Plus, their beautiful countryside is full of villages, mountains, vineyards, and castles.

France's capital, Paris, is the most visited city in Europe, receiving 44 million tourists in 2022.

July is National Park and Recreation Month! Do you know the most visited National Park in America?



The Great Smoky Mountains!

For decades, Great Smoky Mountains is America's most visited national park by a long shot. Nearly 13 million people visited the park straddling North Carolina and Tennessee last year, according to newly released National Park Service numbers. It is most likely because it's one of the national parks closest to major metropolitan areas all along the east coast.

The sprawling landscape encompasses lush forests and an abundance of wildflowers that bloom year-round. Streams, rivers and waterfalls appear along hiking routes that include a segment of the Appalachian Trail. An observation tower tops Clingmans Dome, the highest peak, offering scenic views of the mist-covered mountains.

Fun Fact!
America is the 3rd most visited country!



Do you know which country is the least visited in the world?



Tuvalu!

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, Tuvalu is the least-visited country globally with only 3,000 annual visitors

It is a tiny, remote independent nation in the South Pacific with a population of fewer than 12,000 people spread across nine islands.

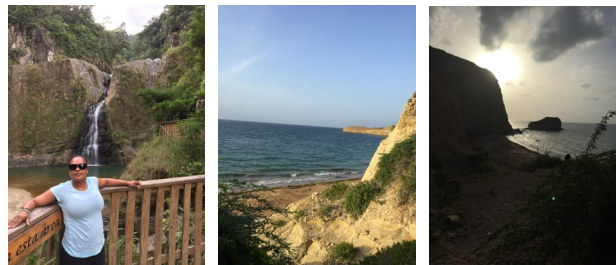
The thinly populated chain of islands are lined with palm trees and stark white sand. Tropical fish, uninhabited islets, and historic WWII sites are among the attractions you'll find.

Why is Tuvalu worth a visit?

The early settlers are thought to have come from Samoa, Tonga and Uvea. Today, Tuvaluan and English are both spoken throughout the islands. It is a very flat island that lacks any real city infrastructure but for those who enjoy snorkeling, diving, or picture-perfect beachscapes, Tuvalu does not disappoint.

There is one international airport with one flight in and out of it every Tuesday and Thursday. However, it is regarded as the most unreliable flight service in the world and people have been known to have to wait up to a week past their scheduled departure time for a flight.

NJDMAVA Employee Spotlight!



Esther Chucaralao, the Director of Veteran Services, was born in the Dominican Republic (DR). In 1997, she moved to Bronx, NY with her family when she was 16 where she attended high school for two years and then went to Community College. From there she joined the US Navy so she could "travel the world." It was during her eight years in the Navy that she really learned English.

Ms. Chucaralao visits her family in the Dominican Republic (which gets about 8.5M tourists each year) every couple years. Her aunt, who lives in gorgeous Monte Cristi, has made it her mission to take her to a different part of the island each time she visits so that eventually she will see her entire country.

Esther shares that the beaches are amazing and are what she loves most about the island. Her most favorite city is Jarabacoa (with Monte Cristi being a close second). The mornings and evenings are chilly enough that you need a light coat, but the days get hot.