

SIX GREAT PLACES TO  
**vacation virtually**

Oceans deep, mountains high, outer space. Sometimes virtual travel is even better than the real thing—for you, for your wallet, and for the world. **BY KIT BERNARDI**



**BIRD'S-EYE VIEW**

Soaring above Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza, Greenland's icebergs, and the seaside villages of Italy's Cinque Terre are just some of the virtual adventures available on AirPano's award-winning platform. Shot by a team of photographers, the extensive portfolio includes 360-degree aerial and underwater videos and high-resolution panoramic images of more than 400 iconic destinations and remote, natural places. "Every week we publish a new virtual tour, giving people a reason to experience the world's beauty often," says Sergey Rumyantsev, AirPano's technical director. [airpano.com](http://airpano.com)

THIS PAGE: SERGEY SHANDIN, OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES; RAYMOND BOYD/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF AIRSTREAM.



Take a virtual visit to (from top): NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; the Arthur L. Richards House in Milwaukee, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright; Yellowstone National Park.



**SPACE STATION**

Private space travel to the International Space Station could launch as soon as this year. But if you don't have \$55 million to fork over, you can go via NASA's 24/7 livestreams, which show life aboard the football field-sized complex orbiting 250 miles above Earth at 17,500 miles per hour. During a single 90-minute visit, it's possible to see stellar views of Earth, sunrise, and sunset. "Viewers watch astronauts space-walk, float through the station, and conduct experiments in the microgravity environment," says Dan Huot, NASA public affairs officer. Catch the astronauts in action from roughly 3:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Eastern time and listen to their conversations (usually in English) with Mission Control centers worldwide. [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)

**WATER WORLD**

Sanctuaries 360's immersive virtual reality videos and lesson plans plunge viewers into America's National Marine Sanctuaries, 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. "Because you can only protect places you know, the growing series' goal is to inspire future sanctuary stewards through storytelling," says Nick Zachar, filmmaker for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Videos

feature restored coral reefs in the Florida Keys, humpback whales and turtles in the Hawaiian islands, and Shipwreck Alley in Lake Huron, Michigan. [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr)

**DESIGN DONE WRIGHT**

Wright Virtual Visits tours let you do more than just gawk at the famed buildings and public sites designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright—they let you interact with experts and explore the design themes that made his work so impactful. During weekly Facebook Live events, viewers take 30-minute tours with knowledgeable guides who answer questions and delve into Wright's use of natural light, landscaping choices, and building materials. "These in-depth, virtual experiences provide perspectives on design that visitors usually experience only on docent-led site tours," says Eric Rogers, codeveloper of Wright Virtual Visits. If you miss a live session, no worries—tours are recorded and archived online. [savewright.org](http://savewright.org)

**EXTREME EVEREST**

Dreams of epic travel become reality in Everest VR, a dizzying, heart-pumping experience that simulates a trek to Mount Everest's summit. No crampons required—just VR goggles to face the mountaineering challenges and feel



I love this, especially for the museums. I can spend all the time I want without any long waits in lines!  
**—JONATHAN**

the exhilaration of a death-defying expedition to the roof of the world. Step by perilous step, you'll cross the terrifying Khumbu Icefall, climb jagged snowy slopes, camp in frigid temps, ascend the Hillary Step, and gaze across the Himalayas. Created by Icelandic VR studio Sólfar, Everest VR lets you scale on Steam, PlayStation, Oculus, and Viveport. [solfar.com](http://solfar.com)

**ON THE ROAD**

Even if you've been to America's National Parks, you'll love visiting them again and again through Airstream's Portable Park videos, created by Academy Award-nominated IMAX film studio MacGillivray Freeman. Mesmerizing looping videos capture the vast beauty of the Everglades, the Grand Canyon, and Arches and Yellowstone National Parks. Hear nature's own soundtrack of bison locking horns, geysers hissing, hawks riding whispering winds, and a lone wolf's soulful howl. "Viewers see natural wonders and wildlife and hear their voices, inspiring the wanderer in us all," says Mollie Hansen, Airstream's chief marketing officer. [airstream.com/portablepark](http://airstream.com/portablepark)

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