

BHTP names safest destinations for US travellers in 2026

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: The Netherlands has claimed the top spot in Berkshire Hathaway Travel Protection's (BHTP) 2026 ranking of the safest destinations, jumping from 14th place last year, with Europe dominating the list.

Australia and Austria follow in second and third place, while Iceland, Switzerland, Ireland, Belgium, Portugal, France, the United Kingdom, and Denmark make up the remaining European entries in the top 15. Outside Europe, Canada ranks fifth, New Zealand sixth, the United Arab Emirates ninth, and Japan rounds out the top ten.

Safety and security account for 81pc of travellers' decisions, according to McKinsey's State of Travel survey.

"Today's travellers are prioritising their safety more than ever," said

Carol Mueller, BHTP head of marketing, adding that the report helps travellers make informed choices.

The BHTP index draws on surveys of American travellers and external sources including the Global Peace Index, Numbeo, and GeoSure Global. Safety is measured across violent crime, terrorism, transport safety, health risks, and protections for women, LGBTQIA+, and people of colour.

The Netherlands is noted for being particularly safe for women and LGBTQIA+ travellers, though visitors are cautioned about fast cyclists. Australia is praised for political stability and low terrorism risk but has strict biosecurity rules.

Austria is peaceful but has occasional demonstrations and pickpockets on trains. Iceland dropped to fourth due to volcanic eruptions, while Canada's wilderness areas pose service challenges.

The UK fell in the ranking because of rising petty crime, phone theft, and cybercrime risks.

The top 15 safest cities are Reykjavik, Copenhagen, Zurich, Amsterdam, Honolulu, Sydney, Barcelona, Lisbon, Tokyo, Dublin, Venice, Seoul, London, Singapore, and San Francisco.

The survey also reveals generational differences: Millennials favour Australia, Japan, and Israel; Gen Z prefers the UAE, Denmark, and the Netherlands; older travellers lean toward Austria, Switzerland, and Canada; while parents and LGBTQIA+ travellers rank Japan, Ireland, and New Zealand highly.

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