

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the sky and the surrounding mountains. The sky is a mix of deep blue and soft orange, with scattered white clouds. The mountains are dark and rugged, with some peaks catching the low light of the sun. In the distance, a small cluster of white buildings is visible on the right side of the lake. The overall mood is peaceful and majestic.

50 Reasons to Love the World in 2021

New year, new hope (The BBC Travel Editors)

It goes without saying that the world was *turned upside-down* last year as we faced a global pandemic, *racial reckoning* and the continued effects of climate change. However, we at BBC Travel believe the *dawn* of 2021 brings with it a new sense of hope and possibility – as well as a heightened sense of connection to each other and the world around us.

Turn sth upside down (IDM): to cause large changes and confusion in a person's life.

His Sudden death turned her world upside down.

Reckoning (noun): a time when sb's action will be judged to be right or wrong and they may be punished.

Officials predict that the day of reckoning will come.

Dawn of sth (noun): the beginning of sth.

Peace marked a new dawn in the country's history.

Even as we were – and still are – unable to travel in the way we did before the pandemic, people from different cultures in every continent have continued to *thrive* in their personal corners of the planet, bringing joy, passion and inspiration to their communities.

Thrive (verb): to be healthy and happy.
This plants thrive in a damp climate.

They've *preserved* local traditions, *made strides* to protect the Earth, and used their creative talents to expand and *evolve* their cultures.

With BBC Travel's 50 Reasons to Love the World in 2021, we hope to share that joy with you, and through their extraordinary stories, inspire you to fall in love with the world all over again. After all, it's the only one we have.

Preserve (verb): to keep sth alive.

The society was set up to preserve endangered species from extinction.

Stride (noun): an improvement in the way sth is developing.

We're making great stride in the search for a cure.

Evolve (verb): to develop gradually.

The idea evolved from a drawing i discovered in the attic.



Nottaway, Canada

Because when we had to stay home during Covid-19 and there was neither work nor school, I was finally able to go *sugar-bushing* [in rural Quebec] with my daughter for the *entire* season – making *pikoodinigan* for four or five weeks.”

Marie-Cecile Nottaway, chef

A **Sugarbush** is a group of Sugar Maple **trees** growing in the same area and used to produce maple syrup or maple sugar.





pikoodinigan



Jennie Tiderman-Österberg, Sweden

When working and singing alongside the fäbod (Swedish summer farm) I felt such a profound connection to them both as a part of our past and present, I just knew that I had to carry on their *kulning legacy*.”

Jennie Tiderman-Österberg, singer



kuling

Isabel Allende, USA



Because in spite of the pandemic, the *wildfires* and the smoke in my hometown, the awful political climate in the US and the economic crisis that creates so much *despair*, I wake up every morning in my small house in California *squeezed* between my husband and two dogs and realise that love is all that truly matters,"

Isabel Allende, author

Wildfire (noun): a large, destructive fire that spreads quickly over woodland or brush.

Despair (noun): the feeling of having lost all hope.



Luis Martinez, Trinidad



Because Trinidad's rich dramatic history and culture stems from European and African roots [and] gives me inspiration with minimum detail, and so I never get tired of writing,"

Luis Martinez, porter and poet



Tan Chooi Hong (Uncle Tan),
Malaysia

Because I've been making char kway teow for more than 60 years, people come from all over the world to taste it. I'm so proud knowing they've travelled to my hometown of Penang for my food. Even though we don't speak the same language, when I see them finishing their plate, I know they are happy."

Tan Chooi Hong (Uncle Tan), street food cook



char kway teow