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## World's Most-Visited Tourist Attractions

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### No. 3 Union Station, Washington, D.C.

**Annual Visitors:** 37,000,000

Opened in 1907, this busy station shuttles some 12,500 passengers daily in and out of the city. But it also handles serious tourist traffic: 37 million who pass through to take in the impeccably mixed architectural styles throughout the colossal building: from Classical to Beaux-Arts to Baroque. More than 70 retail outlets make Union Station a shopping destination, and it's also a jumping-off point for many D.C. tours. —*Joshua Pramis*

Source: Union Station



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**ramtodatry** — POSTED OCT. 5, 2011 10:51PM EST

report

Would be easier if you provided a link to view all the "attractions" or a summary of any other list. Most of us do not have the time to click through 30, 40, 50 different windows. Thanks.

**paulbrock** — POSTED OCT. 5, 2011 10:41AM EST

report

quite a few gaps there! London is a massive tourist destination, rather more so than say Boston...yet only two entries? Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Piccadilly Circus, Westminster Abbey? Swarming with tourists, far more than British Museum is. (For Buck Palace I mean the guys gawping through the gates, not the handful of people that actually go inside during the very limited season of tours) And for an easily verifiable one - Blackpool Pleasure Beach(England) has around 6 million visitors, more than enough to make your chart. That's just the ones I'm familiar with. I can only imagine the holes left by missing out Germany, Spain, most of Italy... the Pyramids of Giza (Egypt)? Machu Picchu (Peru)? Rio de Janeiro?

**Michael W** — POSTED OCT. 1, 2011 11:31AM EST

report

Unfortunately, there are no international airlines taking advantage of the 10,500 foot main runway of the the Niagara Falls International Airport. The airport is a low cost alternative to the airports located Toronto Canada and Buffalo-Rochester USA. Currently 3 Low Cost domestic airlines service NFIA. I personally have asked Air Berlin to look into serving NFIA out of Dusseldorf, Germany. This facility has definite international travel potential as does the whole area encompassing Western New York State and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. I am not affiliated with the airport. I am simply at 63 year old life long resident who just cannot understand why with all the tourist traffic coming into the city French tourists are flying into Montreal and then traveling by bus for 8 hrs to get here. Or. Indian tourists flying into Toronto, then traveling 2 additional hours by bus to get here. Why no just fly right in and increase your vacation time? <http://www.niagarafallsairport.com/> <http://www.facebook.com/groups/286249878055107/>

**shannon91001** — POSTED SEP. 30, 2011 1:58PM EST

report

Here is a list of the most visited places- not necessarily the best places to visit. 19/50 ain't bad but I don't think Disney Hong Kong is on my bucket list.

**Deus02** — POSTED SEP. 29, 2011 11:49PM EST

report

I find the overall description and the visitor totals combining Niagara Falls NY/Ontario somewhat misleading(along with the picture). If you are going to combine the two countries in describing the popularity of the area then I would recommend complete AND accurate information. The reality is of the 22 million plus tourists that visit the Falls annually over "two-thirds" of those visit the Canadian side because there actually is and always has been a continually growing tourism business on that side of the border along with the fact that a visitor can only really properly view both the larger Horseshoe Falls AND American Falls from the Canadian side! If one prefers to look at urban blight at its extreme in a city(Niagara Falls, N.Y.) with a shrinking population base and an oversupply of boarded up buildings, then confine your visit to the American side of Niagara Falls.

**thesu** — POSTED SEP. 26, 2011 4:16PM EST

report

Well, we suspected these results would be controversial, and from your comments, we were right. But revenge has nothing to do with it! As 1958debs points out, this is a list of attractions, not cities, which is why New York City appears more than once. It makes sense that many of the most-visited attractions are in America as America ranks second-highest worldwide in terms of tourist arrivals and is one of the world's largest, most developed countries. Commenter cmc3502 makes a good point that attractions like Stonehenge and the pyramids rank lower than you might expect because they can be expensive and/or time-consuming to reach. Of course, there are lots of places worth visiting that don't get a high volume of tourists. If you're looking for others kinds of inspiration, check out our feature on life-changing trips: <http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/best-life-changing-trips>

**thesu** — POSTED SEP. 26, 2011 11:47AM EST

report

@J Kane, we've quoted the best available official data, and different attractions use different data collection methods. So you're right that in some cases these numbers are specific to tourists and in other cases they include both tourists and residents. But the numbers don't distinguish between domestic and foreign tourists. Most visitors to Everland and Lotte World are indeed likely to be Koreans, just as many of the visitors to Times Square are Americans—that qualifies both sites as popular tourist attractions.

**1958debs** — POSTED SEP. 25, 2011 2:32PM EST

report

If Everland is such a great place, why only a drawing, while everything else provides a picture? Oh, and I forgot, some people are complaining that this list isn't fairly stating the numbers visiting certain cities. To them I give the article's title: WORLD'S MOST-VISITED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. Not cities, attractions!!!!

**1958debs** — POSTED SEP. 25, 2011 2:13PM EST

report

When they take the numbers of people coming in to travel they don't take the numbers into account of those driving. So the numbers of the people going to the places in the US are even higher. We in the San Joaquin Valley have next to nothing but the mountains and fishing. So we drive to the major cities and coastal areas for something to do, making those numbers even

bigger than what they are saying. during the so-called car-amgeadon they just had to use other freeways, not just the one, which is just what they did, The numbers of who are going to see what aren't just guessed, their asked. When you fill out a card that asks what are you going to see, they then add up those numbers and then they get placed into a report like this one. So just blowing off ever time you see a report that you don't agree with is just one thing: LAME!!!!

[saveone](#) — POSTED SEP. 25, 2011 1:17PMEST

report


I don't see why peopole are are getting upset by this list, they are going by how many of "us" visit these places. If we didn't visit them so much they wouldn't be where they are on the list. Why get mad at the writer of this article for delivering facts. Also, mall of america should have been included on here. I agree chucklennon.

1 2 »

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