

# AFAR

## TV Host Samantha Brown Shares Her Favorite Travel Hack for Avoiding Crowds

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*We interviewed “Places to Love” host Samantha Brown to get the inside scoop on “dead weeks,” her favorite lesser-known travel destinations, and the items she never leaves home without.*



In the latest seasons of *Places to Love*, Samantha Brown explores northern Costa Rica during the green season. Courtesy of Samantha Brown

To watch Samantha Brown is to feel like you're catching up with an old friend. The longtime travel show host is the face of the PBS series *Samantha Brown's Places to Love*, the eighth season of which began airing on January 2. It's Brown's approachable style of humble storytelling combined with practical tips that has given her an enduring following as a travel personality we can trust.

**Speaking of getting away from the crowds, Afar is big on helping travelers get off the beaten path and seeking out destinations that aren't over touristed and overcrowded. What are some of your favorite lesser-known places to go?**

One of my favorites is Corning, New York, a large town located in the southern Finger Lakes. So, a beautiful wine region [with] great vineyards, a lot of nice riesling. But it's also the home of the Corning Museum of Glass, and Corning glass is phenomenal. NASA used Corning glass in the first spaceships, and Steve Jobs called Corning and said, "I don't want my iPhone to have a plastic screen. Can you make me a glass screen?" It's fascinating. There's wonderful shops, places where you can learn to blow glass yourself, great restaurants. It also has another really famous museum called the Rockwell Museum, which is Native American art. So it's just this little jewel.

Another one of my favorites is the Crystal Coast of North Carolina, which is basically 85 miles of the Outer Banks. It has wild horses; it's the only place on the Eastern shore from Maine down to Florida that protects its night sky. Out of the 85 miles, half of it is a protected seashore. I [also] love Madison, Wisconsin, and Lafayette, Louisiana.