



8 Extreme Zip Lines

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Zip over jungle, desert and ocean on some of the world's wildest high-wire rides.

[Fantasticable, Portugal](#)

[Sun City, South Africa](#)

[Dragon's Breath, Haiti](#)

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[Icy Strait Point, Alaska](#)

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[Great Zip, China](#)

[Gravity Canyon
New Zealand](#)



photo: PenaAventura.com

FANTASTICABLE Ribeira de Pena, Portugal

The mile-long [Fantasticable](#) zip line at Pena Aventura Park hits speeds of up to 80 mph, and stretches from one mountain to another, connecting the two villages of Lamelas and Bustelo. At nearly a mile in length, it's one of the world's longest zip lines. Lodging can be found in the nearby historic hamlet of Vila Pouca de Aguiar, a 90-minute drive from Oporto, Portugal's second-largest city.



photo: Zip2000.co.za

Sun City, South Africa

The famed [zip line](#) at the Sun City Resort is over a mile in length, with speeds of 100 mph, making it one of the longest, and fastest, lines in the world. The ride takes under three minutes, with a 300-yard drop that whips riders over rugged terrain near the resort complex that's a two-hour drive from Johannesburg.



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Labadee, Haiti


and its nearby beaches.

DRAGON'S BREATH

The half-mile-long zip line is one of the world's longest over water, hitting speeds of 60 mph, and dropping riders 500 feet to glide mere feet above Buccaneers' Bay. The zip line is owned by the cruise company Royal Caribbean, and is a popular stop for ships, as is the village of Labadee,

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Mindo, Ecuador

Two separate companies, [Canopy Adventures](#) and [Ropes & Canopy Tours](#), have lines running through the cloud forest. 130 feet above the ground, walking trails, and tree platforms, connect lines that traverses treetops, and the zip lines are a fun way to see the area's fauna. Toucans are likely to fly by during the tour. The zip-lining of Mindo, also a popular stop for tourists, is a two-hour drive from Ecuador's capital city of Quito.

video

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**ICY STRAIT POINT
Hoonah, Alaska**

Up to six riders can take off simultaneously for parallel, mile-long races to the bottom of [Icy Strait Point's](#) zip line. Speeds hit 60 mph, with a sharp 1,300 foot vertical drop, over a 90-second ride. It's one of the tallest, and longest, zip lines in the U.S. The port town of Hoonah, near Juneau, is a popular stop for cruise ships.

**MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST
Monteverde, Costa Rica**

Serious zip-lines can be found in Monteverde and Arenal, two of Costa Rica's best zipping spots, separated by 60 rugged miles. Monteverde's lines fly 200 feet above a rainforest floor, with night runs offering the possibility of volcanic eruptions. Arenal glides over jungle, Arenal Lake and past Arenal Volcano. They're both roughly four-hour drives from the capital city of San Jose.



photo: Selvatura.com



photo: Discovery.com

THE GREAT ZIP
Simatai, China

Views of China's Great Wall can be had while riding the Simatai Flying Fox, a zip line found at the end of a hike on the World Wonder. The Great Zip line whips riders over Mandarin Duck Lake, a river, desert plateaus and grasslands. The Simatai section of the Great Wall lies 75 miles outside of Beijing.



photo: GravityCanyon.co.nz

MOKAI GRAVITY CANYON

Taihape, New Zealand

What Gravity Canyon's Flying Fox lacks in length, it makes up for in speed. Riders go "Superman-style" to fly parallel to the ground for a 3,600-foot run that reaches speeds of 100 mph. The line travels over a river bed, under a bridge, with a turn towards a cliff face. Mokaï Gravity Canyon, also home to New Zealand's highest tandem bungy jump, is minutes from the quaint town of Taihape, and a three-hour drive from Wellington.



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