The World's Most Colorful Cities

W e're tickled pink at our colorful planet.

by Melissa Locker

Exploring new cities is always a pleasure, but when those destinations are Crayola-colored and candy-striped, it's even more of a treat. Countries around the world—from Chile to South Africa to the picturesque colonial town of Trinidad in Cuba—are home to cities that have done away with the practical in favor of the fun, whether due to a city-wide artistic streak, a cultural love of color, or a Hollywood payout.

Curaçao's anything-but-white city of Willemstad, for example, is a visual tonic. Rumor has it the governor demanded the vibrant hues to soothe his migraines. And the jewel-like homes that fill Burano, Italy, are also the result of a government decree. A formal request to paint a home must be submitted to local officials who decides which colors may be used according to a 16th-century coloring system.

Other cities on this list have only recently been washed in colors, thanks to social art projects and surprising film promotions (you have the *Smurfs 3D* movie to thank for the striking blue city of Júzcar, Spain).

Consider this an afternoon mood booster—or an Instagram bucket list. After all, it's hard to take a bad shot of these colorful coastal towns and hillside cities. Read on for our always-expanding list of the most radiant cities in the world.

Rainbow Row, Charleston, South Carolina

The Easter egg-colored row homes near Charleston's historic waterfront have stood proudly since the late 1700's, surviving the Civil War and the reconstruction. Local lore suggests the pastel-colored exteriors made it easy for drunk sailors to recognize their guest house, while others suggest shops used the hues as a form of advertising. Today, the jasmine-fringed Georgian homes between 83 and 107 East Bay Street are synonymous with the popular Southern city.