

Travel Trend: Best Holiday Light Shows in the U.S.



By Carly Silva

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, traveling safely has become all the more difficult and is on the forefront of many of our minds. As the holidays get closer, many are on the lookout for safe travel ideas for the holiday season. Light shows are a great way to experience holiday festivities without risking your safety, and they're happening all over the country.

If you're looking for a new travel trend to follow this holiday season, check out the five best holiday light shows in the U.S. listed below!

1. Fantasy in Lights: This spectacular light event, located in Pine Mountain, Georgia, is one of the most festive light shows in the entire country. At this event, you can ride on the Jolly Trolley through 2,500 acres of light displays and animations, and even visit the Christmas Village, where Santa makes appearances. This is a great event to travel to, especially if you need some extra holiday cheer this season.

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2. Hershey Park's Sweet Lights: This light show at Hershey Park, located in Hershey, Pennsylvania, is made up of two miles of light-up displays and animations. Families are able to drive through this light exhibit, making it the perfect activity to travel safely through the pandemic without having to leave the warmth of your own car!

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3. Glendale Glitters: Glendale Glitters is a light display in Glendale, Arizona, and is the largest free light show in the entire state. Not only can you visit to look at the lights, but there are also live performances to watch, delicious festive food to eat, and even appearances from Santa Claus himself! This show will definitely help you and your family get into the holiday spirit.

4. Austin's Trail of Lights: This light show in Austin, Texas,

consists of over 40 displays and over 2 million lights on exhibit. Not only is there a light show to admire, but the event also hosts dozens of popular food trucks and a marketplace for purchasing authentic holiday trinkets. This year, you'll be able to safely drive through the exhibits instead of walking.

5. Lights of Christmas Festival: This light festival, located in Stanwood, Washington, is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest. It has six different themed areas and is the perfect place to visit for a festive experience that the entire family will enjoy.

What are some other holiday light shows to check out? Start a conversation in the comments down below!

Travel Trend: Celebrate Halloween With a Special Trip





By [Emily Green](#)

Halloween is a time for kids to indulge in sugar cravings, and for adults to sit back and relax, while still getting into the spooky spirit. If you don't have little ones to bring trick or treating this year, or don't feel like sitting at home to hand out candy to your neighbors, why not plan a trip and celebrate Halloween in style? Whether it's with your significant other or with a group of friends, these [vacation destinations](#) will be sure to get you in the Halloween spirit.

Going on a trip to celebrate Halloween is a great up and coming travel trend. What are some great vacation destinations for this Halloween?

Halloween doesn't have to be a holiday where you just sit at

home. You deserve to head out on the town and have some fun! Check out some of Cupid's favorite spots to celebrate Halloween:

1. New Orleans, Louisiana: From numerous haunted hotels to the "Krewe of Boo" parade, New Orleans is a city that will scare your socks off! Children can play spooky games at the museums, you can rock out at the annual Halloween Spooktacular family concert, or even take a ghost tour! The possibilities are endless in this delightfully spooky town.

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2. Seattle, Washington: This city has their own unique spin on Halloween – "Hilloween." This is where Capitol Hill houses an indoor carnival full of rides, games, haunted houses and so much more! Everyone will be able to find something at "Hilloween," no matter at what age.

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3. Salem, Massachusetts: The well-known setting of the historic Salem Witch Trials, this town has spookiness embedded into their history. While helping the townspeople and tourists understand the history of the Salem Witch Trials, the town also hosts an annual Halloween festival with many kid-friendly events like trick or treating and ghost tours.

4. Williamsburg, Virginia: Williamsburg takes part in the spooky festivities by hosting "A Haunting on DoG Street." A variety of ghost tours take place throughout Colonial Williamsburg, highlighting the history of the town while putting a haunting twist on the tale. Ghost tours not your thing? Don't worry! Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream event is right down the street and is full of fun rides, zombies, ghouls and other creatures that will be sure to give you a fright!

What are some other great vacation destinations to celebrate

Halloween? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Tips: 5 Easy Ways to Book Your Vacation Stress-Free



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

In recent [travel trends](#), the days of having hotels as your only option for a vacation away from home are over. Thanks to websites like *Airbnb.com*, you can really find a “home away

from home” and often at a lower cost than those charged by drab hotels. Next time you’re looking for a place to stay and relax for vacation, check out these [travel tips](#) for booking your stress-free vacation rental.

Find your home away from home and relax on your next vacation with these travel tips!

These days most of us have heard of Airbnb, but did you know there are more options available to you for your next vacation rental? If you are searching for something more comfortable and luxurious than the same old drab hotel room, there are a lot of options available to you. Cupid has some travel tips for finding your next vacation rental:

1. Tripping.com: *Tripping.com* offers a wide variety of accommodations with over eight million properties to choose from for your next [vacation destination](#). Thanks to the many companies they are teamed up with, such as *Booking.com*, this site is perfect for those who want to browse by price range, rating, locations, and amenities.

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2. Hometogo.com: If you are trying to find a lot of options or searching for places to stay around the world, then *Hometogo.com* is a great place to find your next rental home for vacation. They have the largest search engine for vacation rentals and offer rentals in more than 200 countries. They are teamed with more than three hundred providers like *Booking.com* and *Expedia.com* and are very popular with travelers thanks to their easy, user-friendly interface.

Related Link: [Food Trend: 5 Ways Pickles Are Better Than Bread on Sandwiches](#)

3. Flipkey.com: *Flipkey.com* is one of *Airbnb's* biggest competitors. They have domestic and international offerings and every property listing shares every detail you could imagine like the number of rooms and bathrooms, and the amenities provided. You can easily browse through the available listings that meet your specific needs after you set the parameters for an effortless search.

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4. VRBO: *Vacation Rental By Owner, VRBO*, offers worldwide accommodations. Like *Airbnb*, it offers vacations rentals made available by people around the world willing to rent out their space. Profiles share every detail you need about the property including pictures and previous renters' reviews. They have been one of the leading vacation rental market spaces since 1995.

5. Luxury Retreats: If you are looking for the epitome of extravagance then *Luxury Retreats* is the site you want to use to book your next vacation rental. They offer over four thousand luxury properties globally including beachfront villas, city homes, and larger lavish homes. You can even get your own concierge service; talk about a stress-free vacation.

What are some of your go-to vacation rental sites? Let us know in the comments below.

Travel Trend: Micro-cations



By [Emily Green](#)

Everyone needs a break from their day to day life, and a vacation is a perfect way to do so! Some people, especially millennials, can't afford to take a week or two off work or to shirk other commitments for the [luxury vacation](#) have been dreaming about. In an attempt to get a break, micro-cations—a vacation no longer than four nights—have become the most popular [travel trend](#) to get out of the office to any [beautiful vacation spots](#) of your choice.

Micro-cations seem to be a popular and easy travel trend among

millennials. What are some benefits to taking a micro-cation rather than a vacation?

We've gathered a list of reasons why you might want to plan a micro-cation instead of a vacation. Check out these [travel tips](#) if a mini getaway seems doable (and affordable!)

1. You get some time away: No matter how long you go on a trip, you still get a break from any stress, work, or drama. Soak up every ounce of your trip and enjoy every minute of it! Try new things, go on new adventures, and you'll come back with stories that you'll be telling for years to come.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Travel Solo](#)

2. You miss less while you're away: By only taking a trip for a couple of days, you are guaranteed to miss less from any work or responsibilities you might have than if you went on a trip that lasted a week or longer. If you're dedicated to your work but know you need a break, a micro-cation is the perfect way to give yourself that break and get back to work in record time.

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3. Saves money: You might be worried about affording a vacation within the means of your budget. A micro-cation is the perfect way to give yourself your dream vacation in small doses. You can still get that luxurious vacation you've always wanted for a cheaper price by shortening your trip by a few days.

4. Take a load off from responsibility: Asking your workplace to take off for only two days instead of a week is more appealing to your employers. They know you are needed at your job but can understand that you need a PTO every now and then.

You'll be able to get that much-needed vacation and get back to your regular day to day life after you're refreshed in no time.

Does taking a micro-cation sound appealing to your travel needs? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Tips: Travel Solo



By [Lauren Burczyk](#)

Traveling alone can be a totally different experience than traveling with a companion. Whether you're traveling for

business, haven't found that special someone, or simply need some time to yourself, this [travel trend](#) can make for an awesome excursion. When you travel alone, you travel on your own terms, which can make for a really unique experience. If you ever have the opportunity to go off and explore on your own, we highly recommend it. Take our [travel advice](#) – travel solo and love every part of your adventure!

Here are some [travel tips](#) for traveling solo:

1. Decide on your destination: You might have a dream destination in mind, or you may need some help deciding on where you're going to take your first solo trip. Consider a destination where you can do many day excursions without having to frequently change hotel accommodations

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2. Book solo-friendly hotel accommodations: There are several accommodations that suit unaccompanied travelers. Try booking a hostel, homestay, B&B, or small inn, so you have the chance to meet other independent travelers.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: 5 Ways to Live Like a Nomad While Traveling Abroad](#)

3. Consider packing light: Since you'll be completely on your own, it's best to take only what you'll need to survive while you're traveling. You need to make sure you can handle all of your luggage by yourself. If you have a hard time deciding what to bring and feel the need to take your entire wardrobe with you, make sure to check out some [luggage brands](#) that are durable and light to make life easier when you travel.

4. Stay somewhere with free Wi-Fi: You'll want to make sure

that you can stay in touch with family and friends while you're away. Try finding accommodations that offer free Wi-Fi service so you won't lose touch with people you care about during your travels.

5. Relax during mealtime: While you're dining out, take this time to reflect on your journey. Use this time to plan out the next part of your trip, identify anything you've missed, and decide if there's anything you'd like to revisit.

Can you think of any other tips for traveling solo? Comment below.

Travel Tips: 5 Ways to Live Like a Nomad While Traveling Abroad





By Lauren Burczyk

Traveling abroad is an exciting experience, but this [travel trend](#) can get very costly. Visiting another country or multiple countries can require a great deal of time off of work and an array of travel expenses. While many people believe that they will never be able to take their dream vacation around the world, it can be a lot easier than they think. Cupid has some [travel tips](#) on how to travel abroad and live like a nomad.

Travel Tips: 5 Ways to Live Like a Nomad While Traveling Abroad

1. Save your money: It's important to start putting your money away as soon as you have any thoughts of traveling abroad. You've got to be prepared for an extended time off from work and the expenses that traveling the world requires.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Live Like a Local](#)

2. Avoid procrastination: Traveling the world can seem daunting since its outside of the norm for most people. It's easy to say you'll "do it when the time is right," so make now the right time and schedule your plans to travel abroad.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Find the Perfect Hostel](#)

3. Plan ahead: Start a travel journal so you can plan accordingly. The travel journal can include tasks that you have to get done before leaving along with tips that others have given you from their travel experiences.

4. Set your goal and stick with it: Decide on your travel goals such as where, how, and when you want to travel. You must set your sights on these key aspects and keep your goals in mind until the big day arrives.

5. Work abroad: If you're planning to travel for several months at a time, it might be a good idea to find work while you are away. See if your current job has any remote positions available, this would be a great way to still remain active with your employer and keep money flowing as you're traveling.

Do you have any tips on how to live like a nomad while traveling abroad? Let us know! Comment below.

Travel Tips: How to Find the Perfect Hostel





By [Ivana Jarmon](#)

Staying in hostels is one of the hottest [traveling trends](#) right now. Hostels are more about making a connection with the people you meet than the actual place. They are one of the best ways to save money. But, finding a good hostel isn't always easy. It's also really easy to get sucked into the first reasonable accommodation that appears, which can be risky. Cupid has some [travel tips](#) on how to find the perfect hostel.

Travel Tips: Find Out How to Find the Perfect Hostel!

1. Do your research: Before you go, you will want to research the discount lodging card options for your destinations. One of the most common discount cards is the (IH)card International Hostelling, acceptable at any YHA hostel worldwide. There are many countries where hostels are at the top of the market, such as New Zealand and Australia. By

checking the cards and packages offered, you may save a lot on your lodging.

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2. Check your accommodations: When you're staying at a hostel, you have to remember it isn't like a hotel, meaning the things that you would normally get aren't necessarily available. Also, hostels are usually shared rooms with others, which means you may have to share unless you specifically booked a single room. You will want to ask yourself, what are your must-haves? What are you willing to give up? Do you require lockers that you can rent, free internet, washer and dryer, irons, etc?

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Live a Local](#)

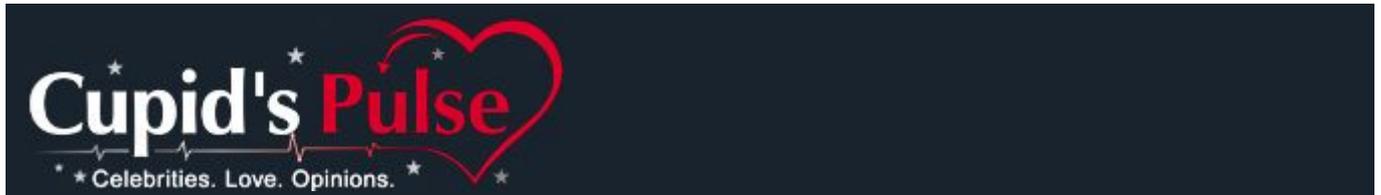
3. Set your budget: There are a lot of hostel websites that have a filter feature that allows you to filter hostels based on your budget. Remember expensive hostels aren't necessarily a good thing and vice versa with cheap ones. Prices can differ from city to city. So be wise with your choice in a hostel.

4. Read the fine print: Before booking your hostel, make sure you read everything available. Certain hostels have curfews and check-in and check out policies. Make sure you know exactly what you're paying for so that you can get your money's worth.

5. Make your reservation: When you book your hostel, go to the direct website first because some airport sites have booking fees attached when buying your ticket. Check out websites such as Hostelworld or Hostelbookers. Staying at a hostel is always an interesting experience. Even if you only try it once, it's worth it!

What are some tips on how to find the perfect hostel? Share your thoughts below.

Travel Tips: How to Live Like a Local



By [Ivana Jarmon](#)

Most travelers spend their time ticking off every bar and restaurant, going on tours, and going to the best clubs; there's nothing wrong with that! But, there is another way. We hear it all the time in the [travel advice](#): live like a local. It's great advice, but if it's your first time traveling or you're in an unfamiliar city, it's easier said than done. Acting like a local in a new city means behaving like you would if you were at home. If you want to make your trip

unforgettable, you'll need to think like a local.

Here are a few travel tips to live like a local:

1. Ditch the travel guide: Travel guides are wonderful, but they don't tell you about all of the hidden gems within a city. Change it up and go to a random restaurant you walk by, or take the train and get off at a random stop and see where it leads you.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Plan a Debt-Free Vacation](#)

2. Forget the hotel: Locals don't sleep in hotels, so why should you? Try renting a home from services such as AirBNB, or try out a hostel.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: 5 Activities for the Most Unusual and Fun Holiday in the UK](#)

3. Learn the lingo: Communication is always key. Interacting with the local people in an unknown country relies on one thing and that's you. If you are a proactive traveler and ignore your linguistic failings, you will always meet a variety of interesting people. Also, the more time you spend with the locals, the more fluent you become in their language.

4. Embrace every offer and talk to everyone: Traveling you meet people keen to show you their city. (However, be cautious.) Such invitations often lead to the most wonderful travelling experiences. Deviating from the usual tourist hub may lead you to interesting local joints. Remember to chat to everyone, because it's a great way of practicing the language and a way to help them learn English.

5. Just enjoy yourself: Don't try too hard just focus on enjoying yourself. There are definitely urges to try and blend

in and experience the less touristy parts of the city. But it's ok to fall into the occasional tourist trap. Find what works for you, stay on the beaten path or get off. It's up to you, you are a tourist after all. Mix up your trip. Live like a local and a tourist. If you're in Paris for the first time, don't ignore the Eiffel tower because you're too focused on living like a local.

What are some your travel tips to live like a local? Comment below.

Travel Tips: How to Plan a Special Mother-Daughter Vacation





By [Ivana Jarmon](#)

What's more special and memorable than taking your mom on a special mother-daughter trip? There is something about taking a vacation and experiencing new things that creates a special travel bond between you and your mother. We have the perfect [travel tips](#) so you can plan a special mother-daughter getaway.

Checkout out travel advice on how to plan a special mother-daughter vacation!

1. Be realistic: If you're mother-daughter trip rookies, be realistic in the kind of vacation you plan. If you and your mom aren't the type to drink wine, Napa Valley wouldn't be the place for you. Consider your likes and dislikes, and make a list of destinations that fit into both your desires and budgets.

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Your Vacation

2. Pick a meaningful destination: Make a list of dream destinations. Make sure it's a destination that is on both of your bucket lists. Perhaps you want to see where your parents got engaged and your mom would love to see it again, too. That's perfect, because there's meaning behind it.

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3. Research: Research, research, research! Before you leave, you should know the ins and outs of you're going to do. This means everything from how you're going to get there to where you are staying to (at least loosely) what your plans are while you're there.

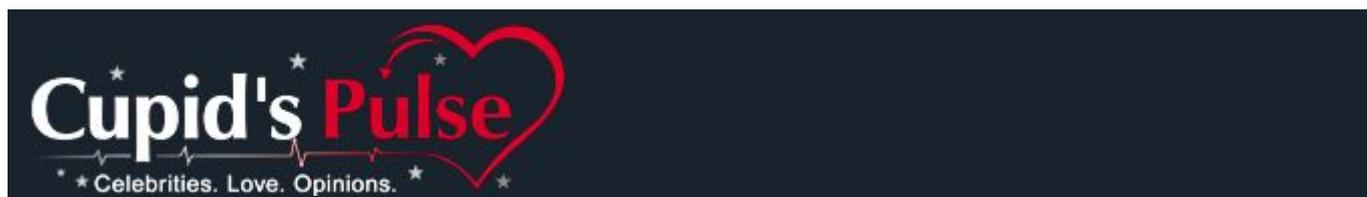
4. Budget: There are good deals out there! This trip may be special, but you don't want to blow a hole in your wallet. Also, there's no secret that the mother-daughter dynamic may involve an unspoken power struggle. It might be easy and fun to allow your mom to pay for everything at first, but that may come with strings attached. First: There are a lot of websites that have inexpensive plane tickets. Also, there are often times deals that come with buying these tickets in a package, like 20% off your hotel stay. Second: Instead of your mom paying for everything, split the cost. This way you're not bickering on who paid for what and there aren't any unexpected attached strings.

5. Compromise: Embrace change, and try something your mom wants to do. A good option is to choose places you both want to visit and then also have places you want to go on your own respectively. It's good to spend time together, but also make sure you take breaks from each other!

6. Above all have fun: Take pictures, try new experiences, and eat lots of new foods! Enjoy each others' presence, and just have fun!

If you have any more tips on how to plan a special mother-daughter vacation, comment below!

Travel Trend: Norway



By Rhodesia Williams

Life is about exploring different lands and cultures. If you are thinking of traveling to a country you haven't visited before, but don't know where to go, give Norway a try. The latest [travel trend](#) has people exploring lands all over Europe. Although the weather can be on the cooler side, with so many things to do, you won't even notice. Breathing in the

fresh air and taking in the sights will have you ready to see just what Norway has to offer.

With so many fun things to explore in Norway, why not take a trip? Here are a few things to check out on your Norwegian getaway.

1. Nature: Interested in exploring all that Norway has to offer? With so many long roadways and plenty of mountains to hike, experience exploring a whole new land. Traveling through Norway won't be hard since islands are connected by bridges and roads. While the summer months are the warmest, it doesn't get truly hot in Norway, making your adventures comfortable.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Make the Most of Time on Your Vacation](#)

2. History: Want to learn about Norway? The country is filled with different historical sites as well as museums. Explore the famous Viking ship that can be found in Norway's capital of Oslo. Learn about the people and culture of Norway. There are so many things to experience like their food and music. Pick up a few quick lessons on their language, too.

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3. Good eats: Norwegians are known for using their own natural ingredients to cook. Using what is native to their land, it's safe to say their cuisine will be fresh and tasty. Norway, with their specialty in seafood, has been nominated for having one of the best top 50 restaurants in the world.

What are some places you would like to visit? Share below.

Travel Trend: Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa in the Maldives



By Rhodesia Williams

Want to take a page from most recent *Bachelorette* Becca Kufrin and indulge in a getaway in the Maldives? Now's your chance!

Although vacations are meant for relaxation, we often find ourselves on vacation doing just as much work than if we were home. A new [travel trend](#) is among us, and it's one you won't

forget! Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa in the Maldives is offering different kinds of packages and you don't want to miss out. From dolphin watching to a trip to the equator on the resort's very own yacht, there's never a lack of things to enjoy.

If you are going your love, there are plenty of romantic activities to enjoy as well as spa treatments. The "Romance in the Maldives" package offers many amenities and plenty of couple outings. While the trip to the equator sounds fun, if you want to explore, you can also try snorkeling. When you are ready for a nice quiet time, there are plenty of couple spa treatments as well as romantic dinners.

While the Maldives may not be top of mind for most people, resorts and spas certainly are! See what experiences Shangri La's Villingili Resort & Spa in the Maldives has in store for you.

1. The Romance in the Maldives: The Romance in the Maldives package includes a five-night stay in a villa with a private pool or over the ocean, perched atop the emerald-green jungle canopy or strung along the turquoise shoreline. This package includes an exclusive stargazing and sea-gazing experience during which guests can take in the stunning and unique scenery of the island. Couples can marvel at the sky with cocktails and canapes from the elevated platform strategically located in a remote location on the golf course, perfect for star spotting. For guests interested in sea-gazing, couples can experience the resort's overwater swing, overlooking the turquoise hues of the lagoon waters.

Related Link: [Your First Trip Together? 10 Packing Tips](#)

2. The Proposal Experience: The presidential villa is nestled in its own luxurious environment with a private walkway entrance, a spacious deck with a private infinity pool and direct access to the ocean, a separate living room, yoga pavilion and even its own spa treatment room to let guests relax without leaving the villa. This offer also includes a romantic lunch date about the resort's Horizon yacht at one of the most exclusive locations on Earth, right on the equator. Aboard Shangri-La's luxurious 21-meter-long Horizon yacht, the couple can marvel at acrobatic dolphins leaping out of the water at sunset.

Have you been to the Maldives? What did you enjoy? Share your experiences below.