

Travel Tips: 6 Best Spots for Fall Foliage



By [Emily Green](#)

We are officially in the thick of the fall season, and what could be better than taking in nature and the beautiful fall foliage all around? While not every place around the globe has the best fall foliage, there are so many places where you and your friends or significant other can spend some time and check out nature and all it has to offer. Check out some of these [vacation destinations](#) that will be sure to keep you in the fall mood:

If you're looking for great places for fall foliage, look no further! Check out these [travel tips](#) on where to find the best fall foliage this season:

Taking a trip to see some fall foliage is the perfect weekend getaway with friends or loved ones! Whether in the mountains or in the suburbs, nothing can beat those beautiful fall colors. Check out some of Cupid's favorite spots for fall foliage:

1. New York City: Despite the fact that the city goes on for miles, the sky high views the city provides gives us beautiful views of the nature in the city, Long Island and the Hudson Valley. Views from the Empire State Building will give you picturesque scenes that you will want to remember for a lifetime.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Fall in Love with Falling Leaves](#)

2. The Catskill Mountains: If you're looking to hike through beautiful fall scenery, the Catskill Mountains is the place for you. With numerous trails, some leading to high cascading waterfalls, you'll be able to see amazing views of the Hudson Valley all around you, no matter where you go.

Related Link: [Fashion Trend: Giving the Boot to Summer – Hello Fall!](#)

3. Albany, New York: Upstate New York is full of beautiful scenery, many instances of which can be found in Albany. The Empire State Plaza in Albany is a perfect place to find great views of the Helderbergs and Catskills, with views from the observation deck at the 42-story Corning Tower. The views will

be sure to take your breath away, and leave you wanting to come back for more!

4. The Adirondacks: Full of many forests with beautiful hiking trails, the Adirondacks is a wonderful place to take beautiful fall photos with your friends or significant other. Whether there for just a day or a weekend trip, there are numerous places to enjoy picturesque fall foliage you cannot find anywhere else.

5. Bear Mountain, New York: This state park has some of the most beautiful fall foliage that's within a close distance to the city. Driving through the park, one can find the beautiful red tipped trees that will be sure to relax you and get ready for the rest of the fall season.

6. Planting Fields Arboretum: If you're looking for a great day trip to see fall foliage, the Planting Fields Arboretum in Nassau County, New York is the perfect place. A 400-acre state historical park with rolling hills, amazing gardens, nature walks and much more, the Planting Fields Arboretum is a great place to get into the fall season.

What are some other great places to find fall foliage? Let us know in the comments 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.

Related Link: [Date Idea: A Day with Your Pumpkin](#)

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.

Related Link: [Date Ideas: Haunted History](#)

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-0-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 Trend: 6 Wellness Vacations You Need to Take Right Now



By Emily Green

Wellness vacations are a growing trend that is popping up all around the world. These [vacation destinations](#) tend to range from tropical, to exotic, to simply traveling to a new city. No matter the destination, these wellness vacations are sure to help improve your health, body and mind.

Wellness vacations are a growing trend all around the world. What are six wellness vacations you should take right now?

If you've been feeling tired or run down, a wellness vacation is the perfect thing in which to indulge. A wellness vacation will help improve your overall health, no matter the issue. Here are Cupid's top six wellness vacations you should take right now:

1. Mii amo, Sedona, Arizona: In the beautiful mountains of Sedona, Arizona, Mii amo is an adobe and stone sanctuary within Enchantment Resort. Whether staying for three, four, or seven nights, you can indulge yourself with learning about chakras, sound healing, and much more around the beautiful red rocks of Sedona.

Related Link: [Travel Trend: Micro-cations](#)

2. Six Senses Duxton, Singapore: Six senses is a wellness resort that has locations in almost every part of the world. The Duxton location is a 49 room hotel that is full of colonial era European, Chinese and Malay influences. This resort offers an on-staff traditional Chinese doctor, who is be available for health tips, readings, and dispensing medicinal herbs.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Health Benefits of Luxury Travel](#)

3. Carillon Miami Wellness Resort, Miami Beach: Even though Miami is typically a spot for partying, Miami Beach is home to great wellness resorts. The Carillon Miami Wellness Resort is in a secluded spot on the North Beach where guests can choose from more than 200 weekly wellness classes, a copious amount of cardio equipment, and several pools, all attended by numerous staff members including nutritionists and

acupuncturists.

4. The American Club, Kohler, Wisconsin: What is interesting about The American Club is that it was originally built for Kohler factory workers, but was transformed into a wellness resort in the 1980s. People who choose to stay at the resort can enjoy legendary water-inspired offerings, like the signature lavender rain therapy, which exfoliates and moisturizes the body.

5. Amanyara, Turks & Caicos: Surrounded by parkland on all sides, surfing, snorkeling and wildlife eco-hikes are common activities for those who stay at Amanyara. Within the resort, there are plenty of activities meant for families like facials, shiatsus, and many more spa treatments.

6. Rosewood Phuket, Thailand: Made up of 71 open villas and pavilions, this wellness resort is unlike any other. Guests can sign up for two-week wellness programs, from high-intensity boot camps to inner peace workshops.

What are some other wellness vacations we should take? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Tips: Backpacking in Beautiful Vacation Spots





By [Katie Sotack](#)

Need a mental health break? Backpacking through the wilderness, Europe, or even a campsite nearby is an affordable way to explore outside of your usual day hiking. *Greenbelly* suggests it's best to decrease your pack's weight before [traveling](#). If you've decided to hike out with your living space, food, drink, and survival gear on your back, make it ultralight.

Reward your thirst for adventure and your wallet by backpacking at the next beautiful vacation spot with our [travel tips](#) for lightweight, low stakes gear carting.

As far as low-cost ways to travel go, backpacking is brilliant and versatile. The packer can commit to a quest by themselves,

take arms with a group of travelers, or go off on a [romantic getaway](#) with their lover, a tent, and the stars above to a beautiful vacation spot. Whatever way the packer decides to travel the number one rule is pack light.

1. Weigh out your gear: By weighing each item before it goes in the pack you'll be able to see if said item is worth its weight. Some things will naturally be heavier, but don't throw them away for that reason alone. Your jug of water? That'll take a toll on your shoulders, but you'd be worse off dehydrating out on the trail.

Related Link: [Travel Destinations: Visit the Great Smoky Mountains & Pigeon Forge](#)

2. Sharing is caring: After weighing and packing each item, weight all the trip's backpacks. If yours is too heavy, for example, but someone else is willing to carry more, give it to them. Another tip for sharing essentials is that there doesn't need to be two of everything. Coordinate with your team to know who's bringing what. This will save the group from carrying more pocket knives than necessary. It may sound like a small, nearly weightless decision, but when you're walking all day with a ton on your back, you'll be grateful for the lessened weight.

3. Synthetic materials: When backpacking, both cotton and denim are a no go. Not only do they weigh more than synthetic materials, but they also retain water. Cotton absorbs water from the environment and your skin so those white socks will be soaking wet for a while once you accidentally step into the trail's puddle. Alternatively, synthetic materials that can be found in certain workout brands keep away sweat to keep you cool and dry.

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Beach Vacations](#)

4. Say goodbye to technology: It might be hard to step away from the internet, but disconnecting from the world wide web

too many benefits to count. While the phone detox might take a day or two, the weight you'll save is worth it. Phones, GPS-s, iPods, and tablets require chargers and cases, all of which will add up. Putting down the tech, for now, will help you build your relationship with your travel companions, too!

5. Factor in the weight of your bag: We're talking about what you'll be carry *in* the bag, but the actual pack is just as important. This is the area to splurge. Buy a bag that's lightweight and has hip and shoulder straps. Speak to the workers at your local camping store, but be aware that backpacking bares weight on your hips. To alleviate pressure your pack should fit securely around your hips and arms with and without the weight in.

Where would you backpack? Share in the comments below!

Travel Tips: Health Benefits of Luxury Travel





By [Katie Sotack](#)

Can luxury travel be self-care? In 2017, *CNN* published the article “Travel Makes Us Happy”, but as it turns out, the ignition of our senses by new experiences makes us happy. Recent wellness [luxury travel](#) has entered the market as a [health trend](#) for those who want to increase their sense of well-being. These [luxury vacations](#) aim to go beyond experiential travel, instead of immersing the traveler in the transformational experience of travel and leading to personal fulfillment.

Here are some [travel tips](#) to ensure the longevity of your growth from luxury travel.

With our culture moving toward environmentally positive retreats and service trips as ways to seek personal enlightenment, is there still room for luxury vacations to bring us happiness? Fear not, there’s still plenty of reason

to enjoy the spa and beaches at a five-star hotel. Here are the perks to wellness traveling.

1. Adventure: Self-actualization sits on top of our hierarchy of psychological needs. The idea is that when we reach our true potential we leave our ego in the dust. This allows us to live more mindful lives. Luxury wellness vacations may ask you to emerge yourself in theater, hiking, or gaming in order to ignite emotions. This results in a personal transformation towards self-actualization.

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: Forget Land & Say 'Hello' to Water](#)

2. Storytelling: For all our bibliophiles out there, luxury travel rips a page right out of your book (but not literally). Wellness locations immerse the traveler in epic storytelling. Like a chapter in a book, the adversity brought on to reach the end goal will inspire personal development.

3. Activity: The reason behind branding these retreats as stories where you're the protagonist is our culture's craving for choice. In the old days, vacationers desired itineraries and classes aiming to guide their journey. Now, we've moved onto mixtures of fitness, nature, cultural immersion, and health foods. These options in activities allow a sense of purposefulness and a full experience within your vacation destination.

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Beach Vacations](#)

4. Digital detox: Many luxury wellness vacations will not allow electronics into their vicinity. The idea of giving up our phones for a week produces sweat beads of anxiety on our upper lips as we realize this vacation isn't for Instagram. However, the long term benefits of disconnecting far outweigh the day of mild discomfort. Embark on your spa adventure with total serenity, knowing no one can disturb you.

5. Women only: If you're a woman warrior looking to relax and grow in an area uninhabited by men, look no further. Certain luxury wellness vacations cater exclusively to female empowerment. With physically, mentally, and spiritually guided activities for growth, these sessions focus on moving past trauma (like divorce, assault, etc.) and inspiring growth.

Where is your ideal luxury vacation location? Share 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.

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

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: Vacation Destinations for a Girls' Getaway





By [Katie Sotack](#)

Life's been hectic lately. The muscles in your shoulder are so knotted you can't lift your arm over your head. Your brain's always on overdrive in an effort to match your racing heart. Your body sending you a message. The rhythm of routine responsibility is too overwhelming and there's no better way to unwind than travel with a good [vacation destination](#). It's time for a getaway with your gal pals at a [popular vacation spot](#)!

Get ready for the fun, relaxing getaway you've been craving. Here's how to find a vacation destination that's right for your girl group.

Grab your bikini and suntan lotion! These are [travel tips](#) for the hot spots during a fun-fueled vacation.

1. San Diego, CA: Rated among the top ten fittest cities in

the world, San Diego is perfect for the exercise-loving girl gang. The beautiful weather and coastal beaches are perfect for hiking, biking, and swimming. While you're there consider taking a group surfing lesson and returning home with a new skill.

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: Underrated Vacation Locations](#)

2. Fort Lauderdale, FL: If your style is more along the lines of bad and boujee head out to Fort Lauderdale. Take after Elizabeth Taylor's [celebrity vacation](#) where there are endless opportunities to relax in this a glamorous getaway. The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment district will keep you busy for days with a metropolitan and cultural vibe.

3. Martha's Vineyard, MA: Try beaches as a classy affair. Seen as the prime vacation destination in *Gilmore Girls*, Martha's Vineyard is famous for an upper-class getaway with beautiful beaches aligned with houses to rent for a weekend. Bring your wallet though, because the shops and top-notch restaurants cannot be missed.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Pocket Friendly U.S. Travel Destinations](#)

4. New Orleans, LA: Take a tip from Tiffany Haddish and friends from the movie *Girls Trip*. After a screening of this film take your crew on the dream nightlife getaway that is New Orleans. End your nights at early morning with the region's famous Cajun cuisine.

Where are you going with your girlfriends? Share in the comments below!

Vacation Destinations: Forget Land & Say 'Hello' to Water



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Looking for your next exciting [vacation destination](#)? Consider leaving land behind and taking to the water on a cruise. One of the best things about a cruise is that you often don't have to decide on just one location. Many boats travel to numerous locations and they include drinks, food, and entertainment for your pleasure all on board.

Not sure where your next vacation destination should be? Perhaps it's

time to consider a cruise.

Cruises offer many options and the best part is that many of them operate year-round. After all, it's still hot in the Bahamas in December. Cupid's has some inspiration for your next cruise:

1. Fun for any sized group: Whether you're traveling with a group of friends and family or taking a solo vacation, a cruise has plenty of fun options for everyone. Many cruises have games and entertainment, such as shows, right on board. You will find family-friendly entertainment in addition to adults-only, like casinos and comedy nights. All of this can be found on the ship before the myriad of adventures begin at each port!

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Visit the Grand Canyon](#)

2. So many options: You might find yourself thinking you don't want to just visit an island in the Bahamas. That's not a problem. Cruises travel all around the world to places like Alaska, Switzerland, the Caribbean, and the Netherlands. Some cruises even visit more than one of these great locations all on one vacation, so your options are nearly limitless.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Pocket Friendly U.S. Travel Destinations](#)

3. Your vacation, your choice: Whether your vacation is for three days or two weeks, cruises have options that will fit within your timeline and budget. You have less than a full week's vacation time at work, no problem. Take a three-day cruise to the Bahamas. Planning to take off work for two weeks? Great! You can travel to Alaska or Greece. Cruises offer vacations to fit many different time constraints and budgets, so you are bound to find a trip that works for you.

What cruises interest you for your vacation this year? Let us

know your thoughts 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

Related Link: [Travel Tips: 5 Pointers for Traveling by Train in Europe](#)

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, so consider packing only the bare minimum.

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: Top 5 Things to Do in the Sunshine State



By [Mara Miller](#)

We've got some [travel tips](#)! Are you thinking about a road trip to the Sunshine State? We've entered the Spring, but in a lot of areas of the country, it hasn't quite warmed up yet. Florida is the answer! Or if you're planning a family summer

vacation, you might want to add one of these places to your must-visit list.

Travel Tips: Florida is a big state and has a lot of fun amusement parks, museums, and resorts, so we've picked the top five things to do in the Sunshine State:

1. Harry Potter World: Need we say more to fellow Potterheads? Embrace your inner wizard at Universal Studios Orlando. Dine at The Leaky Cauldron, get your own wand, and let yourself be chased by the dragon in the bottom of Gringotts. You can even taste butterbeer!

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Avoiding Timeshare Scams](#)

2. The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum: Are you a fan of literature? Located in Key West, the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum is a great place to visit for your trip to The Sunshine State. Ernest and his wife, Pauline, moved to Florida from France in April of 1928. It was in Key West that he wrote *A Farewell to Arms* in three weeks. While you're there, give love to some of the cats that still live on the property. That's right, there are about forty kitties at this museum. They're descendants of Ernest and Pauline's two six-toed cats.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Plan Your First Getaway Together as a Couple](#)

3. The National Aviation Museum: Located in Pensacola, this museum is dedicated to protecting aircraft from the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and The United States Coast Guard. It holds a collection of more than 150 aircraft such as the Que Sera Sera and Curtiss NC-4. Most of the aircraft is on loan to the museum from the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast

Guard. Here you can learn about the birth of naval aviation and it's role in aerospace research. It's sure to be fun, and you get to look at some really old planes!

4. Legoland Florida: Designed for kids 12 and under, take your kids for a fun day of activities in Legoland if you're on a family trip. Kids can learn how the lego bricks are made and let their creativity go crazy at this resort. There is a water park and kids can get breakfast with their favorite Lego character. You and your family are sure to have a creative, fun-filled day. (Just be sure to guard your feet if you get them a box of Legos to play with in the shop!)

5. Walt Disney World: How can we NOT mention Disney World? Head to this famous theme park with your kids. You don't even need to be a parent to have a reason to want to go to Disneyland, either. If you and your honey are fans, this is the perfect place for a romantic getaway too. But more specifically, you should visit the Magic Kingdom park, where Cinderella's infamous castle resides. Or, if you're feeling brave, hug a Stormtrooper and meet Chewbacca in the Star Wars Launch Bay!

Florida has a LOT of places to explore since it's such a large state. What are some places to visit that are on your top 5 to visit in The Sunshine State? Let us know in the comments below!

**Product Review: Travel
Essentials**



By Bre Gajewski

The winter is one of the busiest times of the year for travel. Whether you are driving across the country to visit your family or jetting off for a little warm getaway, you will definitely benefit from these products!

Product Review: These products are great for winter travel!

JumpSmart from Limitless Innovations, \$120



JumpSmart from Limitless Innovations

What could be worse than breaking down in the middle of nowhere on a long, holiday road trip? Breaking down and not being able to jump start your car! This is why you need the JumpSmart from Limitless Innovations.

This device can jump-start 4 and 6 cylinder engines up to four liters. It even has a flashlight function in case you break down in the car. Non only does it act as a power source for your car, you can also use it to charge any of your devices with a USB port, which will definitely come in handy on those long car rides.

[Skinnies Sungel SPF 30](#), \$33



Skinnies Sun Gel SPF 30

If you are escaping to warmer weather, or even if you are just going to be spending a lot of time outside, you definitely need sunscreen. If you are from a colder climate and haven't been outside much the past few months, your skin is not at all prepared for UV Rays. You need a strong and reliable SPF to protect you.

We love the Skinnies Sun Gel in SPF 30. This sun gel is totally revolutionary. It is not made with water like a typical sunscreen so it is better for the Earth and you only need a small amount to last you all day long!

[Pure Biology's Total Eye – Complete Anti-Aging Eye Cream, \\$18](#)



Pure Biology's Total Eye Complete Anti-Aging Eye Cream

Traveling is exhausting and can wreak havoc on your skin. No matter what form of transportation you are using, you are trapped in a confined space with lots of people and recycled oxygen, talk about an aging experience! On top of that, how often do you get somewhere and actually have time to take a nap, rest and rejuvenate before doing anything? Never? So then you end up looking even more tired!

This is why you need Pure Biology's Complete Anti-Aging Eye Cream. This product provides both immediate and long-lasting benefits. "Fision Instant immediately begins to improve the appearance of the under eye area while Baobab Tien promotes long-term benefits and encourages healthier-looking under eye skin." You can purchase this on Amazon Prime for just under \$18 and have it on your doorstep before Christmas!

[EarPlanes](#), Adult & Child, \$9 each



EarPlanes

EarPlanes are the product you didn't realize you were missing out on until you try them! One of the most frustrating thing about plane rides is that horrible ear discomfort you get from the altitude change and cabin pressure. This product takes all of that irritating pain away and prevents your ears from popping! They even help to reduce loud noises too (I'm looking at you screaming baby).

Make sure to check out the Cupid's Pulse [product review](#) page for more recommendations!

Travel Destinations: 5 Secret

Spots to Visit in Paris



By [Ivana Jarmon](#)

Paris is full of beautiful mainstream attractions and destinations you see in many itineraries and blog posts, but that shouldn't be the only part of Paris you see. Paris is full of hidden secrets hidden in plain sight known to the locals and the bravest and most inquisitive foreigners. Cupid has five secret spots to consider making part of your [travel destination](#) in Paris!

Here are five secret spots to include on your travel destination

in visit in Paris:

1. Rue Cremieux: This is one of the happiest streets in Paris. Rue Cremieux is a small pedestrian street lined on both sides with beautiful rainbow colored houses. Come here on a sunny day, and capture the beautifully lit houses. It's definitely one of the best kept secrets in Paris.

Related Link: [Travel Destinations: Top 5 U.S. Spots for Spring flowers](#)

2. The Balcony of the Musée D'orsay: The Musée d'Orsay is one of the best museums in all of Paris, covering the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist eras. Come here on an early morning or evening and take a step outside onto the terrace to catch an amazing view of the Seine and of Montmartre.

Related Link: [Vacation Destination: Plan a Trip to Cuba](#)

3. Rue Mouffetard: This is one of the best market streets in Paris, which gives off a medieval look and feel with its cobblestone lane that winds its way up Place de la Contrescarpe. You'll find a few farmers markets, fruit and vegetable shops and a few restaurants.

4. The Terrace at the Printemps department store: Le Printemps is one of the most iconic Parisian department stores since 1865, which is no secret. But, only a few shippers know that the store has a terrace that gives you a panoramic view of Paris. Go to the top floor via elevator or escalator to Café Déli-Cieux, and step outside. Make sure you have your camera.

5. Parc Des Buttes-Chaumont- Northeastern Paris: If you fancy a walk or picnic with your family, Parc Des Buttes is one of the best parks in Paris. The park is located in Northeastern Paris, and the main feature is their towering rock rising from a central lake.

Where are some secret spots to visit in Paris? Share your thoughts 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.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Plan Your First Getaway Together as a Couple](#)

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 Plan Your First Getaway Together as a Couple





By [Courtney Shapiro](#)

Taking a trip together as a couple is a big step forward in your relationship. There are several aspects that need to be planned out before going on vacation. Check out our [travel advice](#) for you and your partner's first trip together.

Here are a few travel tips to plan your first getaway as a couple:

1. Come up with a budget or payment plan: Obviously any vacation you and your partner take is going to cost money. Figure out how much you want to spend, and how the two of you are going to take care of your travel expenses.

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

2. Decide what you both want to see: Your idea of a vacation might be different from your partner's. Pick a place that interests both of you, and figure out what you can see while you're there so each of you can be satisfied.

3. Figure out what type of trip you're planning: Are you planning a tropical getaway, a strenuous exploration, or something in the middle? Discuss what the best option would be for you as a couple, and decide the best way to spend your time together.

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

4. Do something special for the two of you: No matter where you end up on vacation, you should plan something that will be memorable for your future. The whole vacation could be special to you and your partner since it is just the two of you, but maybe you could take it to the next level and give yourselves a special night out.

5. Try something new: Going to a new place with your partner could be the perfect time to try something different. Be adventurous together and eat a new food, or share an experience that you probably would not have normally done.

What are some your travel tips for a couple's first getaway? Comment 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 proactive traveler and ignore your linguistic failings, you will always meet a variety of interesting people. Also, the more time you spend time 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 to 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: 5 Best Motorcycle Trips in America



By [Ivana Jarmon](#)

There's nothing like getting on your motorcycle and heading out on the road. Any biker can tell you that the moment a person gets on their bike, their senses are brought to life. Bikers all share the restless, passionate love for the open road. These [travel tips](#) make for a perfect motorcycle trip.

Check out our travel tips for the top five motorcycle trips a biker should take:

1. Texas: Texas has a grouping of great motorcycle roads in the Texas Hill Country nicknamed the Twisted Sisters. The actual names of the roads are Ranch Road 335, 336, and 337. These roads aren't meant for amateur riders, as they take you on a 100-mile loop of Texas ranches, valleys, and hills providing you with a panoramic view of the curve around canyons and rises with few guardrails. Attractions that can be visited along the way include the Frio Canyon Motorcycle Stop, the Lone Star Motorcycle Museum, and the Lost Maples State Natural Area.

Related Link: [Travel Destinations: Top 5 U.S. Spots for Spring Flowers](#)

2. Montana: There is a road that cuts through Montana's Glacier National Park called Going-to-the-Sun. The road stretches 50 miles and lasts roughly two hours without stops. Five of the National Park's campgrounds are located along the road.

Related Link: [Travel Destinations: Top 5 Castles To Visit In America](#)

3. Georgia: The road known as Skyline Drive attracts over two million visitors every year due to the changing leaves. Black bears, white-tailed deer and wild turkey can be seen along the road. Skyline Drive is 105 miles long and runs north to south as the only public road through Shenandoah Park. The park is left intentionally un-mowed, so wildflowers can grow year-round giving visitors a magical feel.

4. Big Island (HI): The Big Island is interwoven by a web of

roads that cuts through a variety of terrains and a lush rain forest. Saddle Road offers a route through the heart of the island; it's full of roller-coaster like twist and turns with smooth roads, making you want to come back for another visit.

5. Los Angeles (CA): Near the heart of the city, there are a variety of rural roads. Look no further than the Angeles Crest Highway near Flintridge or the winding canyons in Malibu. Also, try the Hollywood area. It will give you a peak of the coastal front.

What are some motorcycle destinations you are excited to visit? 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.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: How to Make the Most of Time on 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.

Related Link: [Travel Tips: Indulge in a Romantic Getaway in Tuscany](#)

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 Tips: How to Plan a Debt-Free Vacation



By [Jessica Gomez](#)

Most of us love traveling and have a list of places we wish to go to before we kick the bucket. Making a bucket list with all the places you wish to visit is a great first step. Traveling can be such an amazing experience when you're not stressing out or breaking the bank. Therefore, we all wish to take a vacation that is debt-free, but how? Planning accordingly is

your answer. Below are our [travel tips](#)!

Here are five steps in the form of travel tips to take toward a debt-free vacay!

1. Create a budget: In order to be able to plan a vacation where you spend the least money and avoid debt, you need to know how much you can and are willing to spend. Do a financial assessment. Calculate your total take-home income, how much all your expenses are (including the amount you wish to save for non-travel related reasons), and lastly – how much you have left that you're willing to save without bending backwards.

2. Plan your vacation as detailed as possible: It's all about planning, and planning requires tons of research. Look up the place/s you want to visit on your next vacation, and plan what you want to do there. Plan everything from flights and stay, to activities and food. After that, it's time to put a price on everything. Once you know how much the whole vacation will cost, you know whether it is possible for you to afford it or if you have to exclude a thing or two – sometimes more.

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

3. Use apps & sites to find cheap flights: There are many apps and websites that cut you deals on flights, and hotels also. However, when it comes to your stay, you should decide whether a hotel, an all-inclusive resort, or an apartment/house rental is the best option for you. The good news is that finding cheap travel won't be difficult. Websites like Jetcost.com will compare the flight prices of many websites, showing you the most affordable price for you. Just make sure to always use a private tab when searching up hotel and flight

prices in order to avoid cookies and sudden price fluctuations (the increasing kind aka the unwanted kind).

4. Save money over time: After planning and calculating, you should have a lot covered. Now you must plan to save a little each week. Of course this will depend on how soon you plan to take your trip. Planning as soon as possible is essential so that you can save as much money as possible.

Related Link: [Romantic Getaway: Travel in The Deep Blue Sea](#)

5. Be open to change: Sometimes after planning your vacation, things don't go accordingly – and that's okay. Be prepared for change and stay motivated. The more you plan, the easier change can be because you already have the information you need in-hand. Be open to having to change your vacation destination, or having to change the time, or other parts of your trip. As long as you follow the guidelines above, you should be okay when planning any trip.

Enjoy, we know that vacation is much needed! What destination are you planning on traveling to next?

Celebrity Travel: Bring Your Family on a Cruise





By [Haley Lerner](#)

Finding a good [vacation destination](#) to bring your family on can be pretty tough. If you have a big family, it can be tough finding something that your whole gang can enjoy. Luckily, we've got the perfect [celebrity travel](#) idea for you: a cruise. Bringing your family on a cruise trip is an awesome idea because there are so many activities to keep your whole family busy, in one contained (but huge) space. We've got some [travel tips](#) on why yoFinding a good [vacation destination](#) to bring your family on can be pretty tough. If you have a big family, it can be tough finding something that your whole gang can enjoy. Luckily, we've got the perfect [celebrity travel](#) idea for you: a cruise. Bringing your family on a cruise trip is an awesome idea because there are so many activities to keep your whole family busy, in one contained (but huge) space. We've got some [travel tips](#) on why your next family vacation should be on a cruise.ur next family vacation should be on a cruise.

Check out our travel tips on why to

bring your family on a cruise!

1. It's easy: A big reason why going on a family cruise vacation is such a good idea is that it's super easy to plan and do. You pay for everything in one price and don't have to worry about any trip planning or separate bills. Food, drinks, accommodations, entertainment and more are all covered under the same price. You also are getting a good value for your money, especially since many cruises have group discounts when you have more people on your trip.

2. Fun for everyone: Cruises are a great family vacation option because there is something for people of all ages to do on them. Almost all cruise ships have kids' facilities that are split by age so all your children can have fun on their own, meet other kids and feel independent. Adults can spend their time hitting up the pool bars and relaxing at the spa. All ages have something to do on the trip and you don't have to worry about struggling to plan an activity that will satisfy everyone.

Related Link: [Travel Trend: Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa in the Maldives](#)

3. Excursions: One of the best parts of being on a cruise is that you get to travel to beautiful destinations. Several days of your cruise will be spent getting to hop off the ship and explore an island or city. Bring your whole family for sight-seeing and wild adventures like scuba diving and surfing. You can plan your cruise around different destinations you want to hit up. Go for a tropical trip around the Caribbean or a romantic, historic trip around the coast of Europe.

4. Tons of activities: Even for the days where you stay on the ship, there are plenty of activities for the whole family to get involved in. Cruises can have pools, waterslides, rock climbing, circus shows and plays, movie theaters and more.

You'll never get bored exploring everything your cruise ship has to offer.

Related Link: [Romantic Getaway: Destinations in South Africa](#)

5. Great service: Another great aspect of going on a cruise is that they have incredible service. You'll be sure to get top service with housekeeping, food, entertainment and hospitality staff. Everyone working on cruises are experts in their fields and are there to make your time the best it can be.

Have any other reasons you should take your family on a cruise vacation? Comment below!

Vacation Destination: Plan a Trip to Cuba





By [Haley Lerner](#)

Looking for a hot [vacation destination](#)? Cuba is the perfect place for you to take your beau for a [romantic getaway](#). After many years of United States citizens not being allowed to travel to the small country, it is now open for visitors. We've got some [travel tips](#) for some of the best things for you to do on your vacation to Cuba.

Check out our travel tips for your perfect vacation to Cuba!

1. Wander around Old Havana: One of the best parts of Cuba is the beautiful, colorful buildings that litter the streets of Havana. In the capital, take a stroll and shop, get a bite to eat and soak in the history the city has to offer.

2. See live music: Cuba is a country full of music. Whether it's listening to music in the street or going a jazz club, you can find great live music to listen to all over Cuba.

Related Link: [Romantic Getaway: Destinations in South Africa](#)

3. Go to the beach: Cuba is surrounded by water, so there are plenty of beautiful beachfronts to visit in the country. Go with your beau and spend a romantic day by the shore, soaking up the sun and swimming in the clear blue ocean water.

4. Ride in a vintage car: Cuba is famous for its colorful, vintage cars. What's great is it's actually really easy to take a ride in one. Taxis in Cuba are these vintage cars, so take one for a ride around the city and enjoy the old car and some fantastic views.

Related Link: [Travel Trend: Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa in the Maldives](#)

5. Go to a museum: Cuba has a rich history, so hit up one of the country's many museums. Whether it's the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, the national art museum, or the Museum of the Revolution, you'll be sure to be in awe of the fantastic content you'll discover.

Have any more tips on what to do in Cuba? Comment below!

Travel Tips: How to Make the Most of Time on Your Vacation





By [Haley Lerner](#)

Getting ready to jet off to a beautiful island or romantic city? We know how excited you must be for your next amazing vacation. But, have you ever struggled with how to best spend your time while traveling? Luckily, we've got the perfect [travel tips](#) to help you make the most out of time on your [romantic vacation](#).

Check out our travel tips on how to make the most of your vacation!

1. Research: Before going on a vacation, you should make sure you know everything about where you're staying, how you're getting there and what things you plan to do while away. Make sure to do ample research so no detail slips through the cracks.

2. Make a schedule: Once you've figured out the details of your trip, make a flexible schedule with all the activities you want to do, places you want to see and restaurants you

Vacation Essentials for the Whole Family



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

With gorgeous sunny days and cooling, sea-blown breezes, summer is the perfect time for [travel](#). Whether you're planning your annual family adventure or a [romantic getaway](#), read Cupid's [product review](#) below for your travel must-haves for the perfect, stress-free vacation.

Product Review: Summer Travel Must-Haves for a Stress-Free Vacation

for the Whole Family

1. [Kwilt Shoebox Mini Photo Aggregator/Personal Cloud, \\$59](#)



Kwilt Shoebox Mini. Photo courtesy of kwiltshoebox.com

Similar to an external hard drive for your home computer, the Kwilt Shoebox is a storage device for all those family vacation photos you take on your phone. If you lose your phone or just run out of space, you never have to worry about losing artifacts of your memories. Portable and easy to charge, the Kwilt Shoebox has the versatility to attach to a TV or a free mobile app for multiple methods of viewing. With 512 megabytes of storage and the ability to attach to tandem external hard drives, the Shoebox has unlimited space without those extra charges for using the cloud.

Related Link: [Product Review: Travel in Style with These Glam Bags](#)

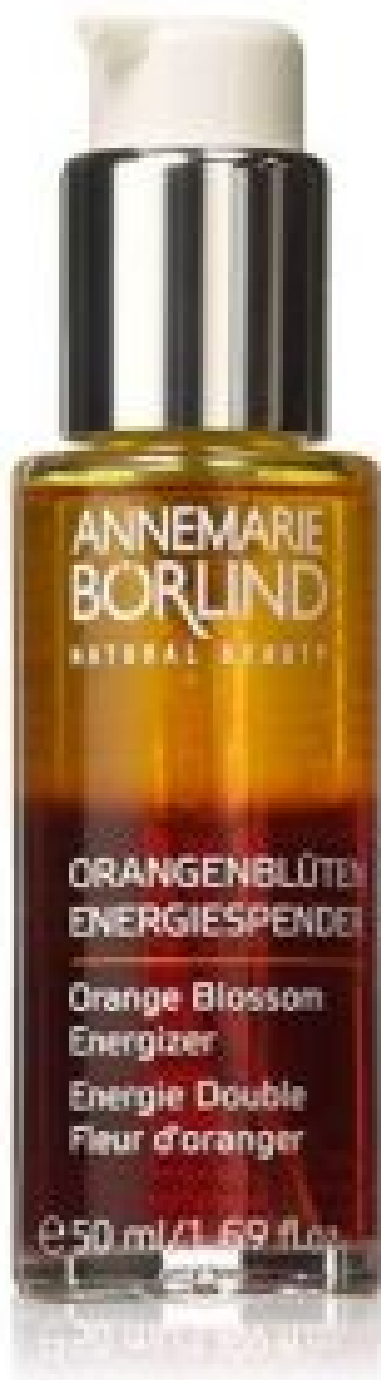
2. [BuddyPhones PLAY, \\$49.99](#)



BuddyPhones. Photo courtesy of buddyphones.com

BuddyPhones PLAY are the perfect travel accessory for your kids. Specially designed headphones with four safety sound levels to minimize hearing loss, parents don't have to worry about their kids during long car rides. The four travel modes fit every need: Toddler Mode, Kids Mode, Travel Mode, and Study Mode. The headband is made to withstand strong little hands so it won't snap when it's bent or pulled on. Made to fit tiny heads, the BuddyPhones PLAY are easy to adjust, with earmuffs made from hypoallergenic material to aid your child in every way. The BuddyCable sharing system allows BuddyPhones to be linked so that all your kids can watch and listen from the same device.

3. [Annemarie Borlind Orange Blossom Energizer, \\$38](#)



Orange Blossom Energizer. Photo:
Amazon.com

It doesn't matter if you're sitting on the beach tanning or getting whipped by the wind on roller coasters, your skin still pays the price. Summer vacations can do some damage, but this orange blossom energizer's formula uses ingredient to

bring life back into your skin. The potent antioxidant orange blossom serum mixes with carrot oil, infused with vitamins B5, C, and E to stimulate collagen production. Combine the Orange Blossom Energizer with Annemarie Borlind's other products for a glowing, fresh look.

Related Link: [Product Review: Make Relaxation a Reality While Traveling with Your Baby This Summer](#)

4. [Mixology, \\$7](#)



My Drink Bomb. Photo courtesy of mydrinkbomb.com

For your drinking fancies, My Drink Bomb has a delightful drink bomb for every palette. Just like bath bombs, drink bombs fizz into your drink for an extra explosion of flavor. Made from all natural ingredients, organic herbs, and the occasional 24K gold, these bombs are nonalcoholic and great for any person and any age. With low sugar, sugar-free, and gluten-free options, anybody can drop one of these drink bombs into a glass of water, soda, or alcohol for an extra fun punch.

Have your best summer vacation yet with these travel essentials!

For more product reviews from Cupid's Pulse, click [here](#).

Product Review: Travel in Style with These Glam Bags!



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

Cute and practical is on every traveler's wish list when it comes to bags. These totes will help every world adventurer fight the frazzled looks of long flights by carrying luggage in style. Whether you're going somewhere for a [romantic getaway](#), a family vacation, or a [date night](#) at the beach, these summer travel bags are must-haves.

Product Review: Summer Travel Bags for Stylish Vacations!

[Flightline Travel Tote, \\$45](#)



Flightline Travel Tote. Photo courtesy of flightlinetravelllc.com

The perfect clutch for your travel essentials, the Flightline Travel Tote has thought of your every need. With side pockets especially designed to hold your passport, legal ID's, and phone, you can easily access all of your essential documents while going through security; no extra time digging through your purse needed. A patent-pending o-ring designed zipper creates the unique ability to still open the clutch while it is placed inside a seat back pocket. The tote easily detaches from other Flightline bags to make trips to the bathroom quick, and all bags come with a small strap so that you can hang your tote anywhere. Though sleek in design, the tote is big enough to hold a small tablet, expanding as wide as a

thick magazine. You can customize your tote in either classic black or a deep purple, both made of vegan leather.

[OMG Accessories Duffle, \\$58](#)



OMG Accessories Duffle. Photo courtesy of omgacceccssories.com

How better to pack for a girls' weekend or a romantic getaway than in a cute patterned duffel? Available in five bubbly patterns, these bags are a flirty addition to your travel wardrobe. Names like "Denim Foxy Roxy Weekender" and "Frenchie Louie Weekender" can match your mood. All bags are made of vegan leather with a webbed nylon adjustable strap and gold hardware. Measuring 9"x18", it's the ideal size for a couple days away. The patterns are what make the bag unique, and they come with the options of "Rainbow," "Kitty Kat," "Foxy Roxy," "Unicorn Gwen," or French bulldog "Louie."

Start this travel plans with a little inspiration from these summer travel bags!

For more product reviews from Cupid's Pulse, click [here.](#)

Travel Advice: 10 Insider Tips for the Perfect Saint Barths Getaway



Whether you're planning your first vacation on Saint Barths or returning a second or third time to this idyllic Caribbean island, the eclectic, boutique family-owned [Les Ilets de la Plage](#) has just unveiled their top "10 Insider Tips" for the perfect Saint Barths getaway. Summer is an ideal time to take advantage of island savings and discounts and for those looking for a picturesque [romantic getaway](#) in Saint Barths without breaking the bank, Les Ilets de la Plage is the perfect hideaway for families, couples, friends and the solo

traveler.

For those looking for an affordable way to vacation on the beautiful of St Barths, look no further than the intimate, family-owned beach resort of Les Ilets de la Plage. This hidden gem offers 11 private villas with direct access to the white sand beach and azure sea. Secluded yet central, Les Ilets has been a well-kept secret for years, combining the privacy and serenity of a villa with a hotel concierge service at an affordable price for the perfect [celebrity vacation](#).

Looking for travel advice to make the most of your vacation in Sant Barths? Laurie Smith, the managing director of Les Ilets de la Plage, has compiled these helpful “10 Insider Tips” for the perfect Saint Barths getaway.

1. Why Saint Barths?: This remote Caribbean island has all the glamour of St. Tropez without all the pretentiousness that accompanies typical celebrity hotspots. It's totally down-to-earth and accessible to anyone who wants a relaxing beach escape. Don't be scared off by all the celebrity sightings—St. Barths is an utterly laid-back, hidden gem of an island, perfect for escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life (that's probably why the celebrities like it so much!). It's got fabulous beaches, nearly perfect weather, and a steady parade of yachts and sailboats to entertain your eyes as you soak up the sun. Whatever you're looking for in your next beach holiday, you'll find it in St. Barths.

2. Fly into Saint Maarten for easy transportation to Saint

Barths: Unless you can charter your own plane, there are no direct flights to the island. And if you were to fly into Remy de Haenen airport in St. Jean, be prepared for a bit of a thrill—the tiny runway (just 2,100 feet, the shortest in commercial aviation) is flanked by St. Jean Bay on one end and mountains on the other. You can fly in from San Juan, Antigua, Puerto Rico, and Guadeloupe. You can fly from St. Maarten but there are fewer flights operating this year due to the hurricane. St. Maarten does have the most options, however. If you pass up the hair-raising flight, you can take a 45-minute ferry ride or any one of a number of private charter boats.

3. Take advantage of great deals during the summer months: One of the many surprising facts about St. Barths is that it's actually an amazing year-round destination. High season runs from December through April—and if you're planning to visit during peak months, you'll need to plan months and months in advance, and it will cost you twice as much as the off-season. The summer months, on the other hand, are quieter, less crowded, but still utterly beguiling—and you can get a deal on a villa with much less notice. If you're into last-minute getaways, you'll love summer in St. Barths.

4. All of the beaches are public, free and rarely crowded: While it's true you'll find the occasional Caribbean resort-style, hotel-studded beach on St. Barths, most of them are secluded, remote, and frequented by locals. And all of them have that gorgeous, powdery white sand that feels so wonderful between your toes. (Except Shell Beach... the clue is in the name!) The most popular beach is St. Jean Beach, conveniently located near waterfront restaurants and shops—and perfect for snorkeling. Flamands Beach is the place to surf and bodyboard, while Grand Cul-de-Sac has calm, shallow water, a win for families with small children.

Related Link: [Best East Coast Beaches for Summer 2018](#)

5. Low-key lunches are a true highlight of Saint Barths: One

of the highlights of a St. Barths holiday is spending long, lazy, rosé-fueled lunches with your feet in the sand. Shellona on Shell Beach has a rustic deserted-island ambiance and comfy loungers clustered beneath palapas—a wonderful way to while away an afternoon. La Langouste on Flamands Beach has lovely lobster (as you'd guess from the name)—choose your own from the tank and it's delivered perfectly grilled to your beachside table. It's located in the pool courtyard of Hôtel Baie des Anges—cool off with a dip between courses!

6. No need for fancy dress clothes: Despite its posh reputation, you really don't need to dress up when you visit most of the island's 80-odd restaurants. Leave your ties and jackets at home—casual resort wear is the norm in St. Barths. Of course, if you really want to dress to the nines, put on your swankiest kicks and head to Bonito St. Barth, the Latin-French fusion restaurant where the beautiful people go. The restaurant at Villa Marie has a distinctly romantic vibe, the perfect place to celebrate a special occasion.

7. There's no public transportation, so a rental car is a must: Taxis are easy to come by, but they can be expensive. Fares jump after 8 pm and you need to arrange taxis in advance if you need a ride after midnight. For most people, a rental car is essential, then you can come and go as you please. It is much better value to hire a rental car and it's easy to arrange one for yourself. If your concierge handles it for you, the agency can deliver it to your door—it really couldn't be simpler.

8. Travel medical insurance is a good idea: Modern health care is available on St. Barths, but the hospital is small and only offers basic care and limited emergency services. If you need medical care during your stay, you'll need to be evacuated to another island better equipped to handle emergencies—and that can cost tens of thousands of dollars. You'll likely never need travel medical insurance, but if you do, you'll be very glad you have it.

Related Link: [Not Feeling Up for Beaches? 5 Other Great Things to Do in Rio](#)

9. Les Ilets de la Plage is a great choice for travelers who seek privacy, but also want the amenities of a resort hotel: There are plenty of posh hotels on the island, but if you chose St. Barths to escape to a bit of privacy and seclusion, you can't beat a private villa. Les Ilets has beach side and garden villas that offer the utmost in privacy with luxe accommodations and all the amenities you'd expect from a hotel. Our attractive one-, two-, and three-bedroom villas are perfect for a romantic couples' retreat, a girls' getaway, or a relaxing family holiday. In addition to gorgeous private beach access, there's a private pool with cabanas and sun deck. We also have full concierge services—fresh croissants delivered to your door each morning, lunch and dinner reservations, grocery shopping, even childcare is easily arranged for you. It's really the best of both worlds.

10: There is life away from the beach. No one would blame you if you never wanted to leave your comfortable spot next to the sea, soaking up sun, sippy fruity island drinks, and enjoying the incredible views. But if you do want a bit of activity and adventure to round out your day, there's plenty to do in St. Barths. The waters off St. Barths are ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving, and there are great spots for kitesurfing, bodyboarding, and all sorts of watersports. And if you like fishing, the Atlantic waters are filled with mahi mahi, bonito, wahoo, and marlin. Looking for a little retail therapy or some pampering? This is an island that draws the rich and famous—the shopping and spa services are world class.

About *Les Ilets de la Plage*: Les Ilets de la Plage is a quiet, understated resort with 11 villas that are simple, but elegantly decorated and very comfortable. All villas have full kitchen facilities, air conditioning in the bedrooms, satellite TV, Wi-Fi throughout, a daily maid service and a daily delivery of fresh breads and pastries right to the door.

It's the best of both worlds – the privacy of your own villa with hotel services, concierge and facilities on hand. The beach cabana by the central pool has complimentary coffee and tea available all morning. Guests love the little bit of community that the pool area offers, and guests often gather to sunbathe, chat, and even enjoy a cocktail or two in the evenings. Les Ilets is great for families too as some villas have multiple bedrooms and different configurations. The area itself is very quiet and while children will love the beach, there's also a huge variety of activities the resort offers. For more information, visit www.lesilets.com or email info@lesilets.com.