

# Think Outside of the Chocolate Box: Your Guide to an Adventurous Valentine's Day



By Rob Tischler, Co-Owner of [Allstar Coaches](#)

Valentine's Day calls to mind pictures of ornate flower arrangements, expensive gifts, and costly dinners all in an attempt to show your loved one how much you care. What if this Valentine's Day, instead of splurging on the latest tech gadgets, you planned a date that truly encompasses what the holiday is all about – romance AND quality time?

# Think outside of the chocolate box this year, and give the gift of adventure by planning an unforgettable road trip.

First, rethink your view of a road trip, because I'm not talking about simply hopping in the car and booking a hotel. To make this experience truly unique, you're going to want to book an RV – a hotel and car in one – or grab your tent for a camping expedition. Except for the cost of gas, both RVing and camping can be less expensive than typical weekend getaways, can allow for greater freedom by packing up and going whenever you're ready, and they offer a front-row seat to Mother Nature's beauty – allowing you and your loved one time to truly sit back, relax, and return home feeling refreshed.

If you've never thought of an RV or camping experience as romantic, think again! This type of road trip, regardless of which you choose, shifts the focus from material items to experiences, bringing couples together. Not only do you act as a team to navigate the roads, ideally you're also unplugged from technology to allow for deeper connection. Plus, you're untethered to outside demands like check-out times, reservations, and tour schedules – the world is your oyster. Besides, what could be more romantic than snuggling under a warm blanket while you gaze at the stars? If you're ready to go off the grid for a romantic Valentine's Day, here are some tips to planning an unforgettable adventure:

## **Set the Mood**

To make your Valentine's Day road trip adventure truly epic, set the stage and make sure everything about the trip says romance from the start:

- A romantic location can set the mood for the rest of your getaway. Start with booking a lake-front or beachside campground or RV park, and check to see if there's an adult-only section on the premises.
- This trip isn't only about romance, it's about adventure. Whether it's a visit to a national monument, going horseback riding, hiking a new area, or exploring that quaint seaside town near the campsite, build a lasting experience as a couple by doing or seeing something new.
- Just because you're in an RV doesn't mean that you can't pamper yourselves. Some RV parks offer massage and spa packages, check in advance to see if this is available. Or, bring the spa to you by packing your RV with amenities like good linens, comfy robes, plush slippers, massage oils, and champagne.
- The opposite of romance is watching your partner stare at their phone while you watch the sunrise. Put the phone down – better yet, turn it off – and reconnect with each other and the scenery around you. Instagram will be there when you return to civilization.

### **Date Night Ideas**

You've set the mood by following the tips above, now it's time to plan some activities for your road trip. Try these intimate ideas:

- Make a 5-star dinner on the campfire. There's no shortage of campfire recipes available on the internet. Plus, cooking creates an effortless teamwork experience as you work together to make sure the steak doesn't burn.
- Sit back and enjoy the stars. Leaving city life behind has its perks. Grab a warm blanket and cuddle as you search for the Big Dipper or the star of Venus – the Goddess of Love.

– Watch the sunrise. There’s something so peaceful about enjoying a warm cup of coffee amidst the stillness that comes just as the sun rises. The only thing that could make it better is when you take in this occasion with your loved one.

– Bring the wine tasting to you. You don’t need to go on a winery tour to have a wine tasting event. Start with a theme, like Pinot Noir grapes, grab a few bottles on your way to the campsite, pick up some complimentary cheese and crackers, and voila! You’ve got yourself a wine tasting.

– Go on a scavenger hunt. Simply create a list of things you can find in your location and then get out there and find them! To make this event extra romantic, set a rule that you and your significant other must share a kiss each time an item is found.

– Get competitive with a game night. No matter how old you are, there’s something about busting out your favorite board game and earning bragging rights through a friendly competition with the one you love.

At the end of the day, Valentine’s Day allows an extra moment to show our partners just how much they enrich our lives. I say forget the chocolate and flowers – or bring them along – and gift an unforgettable adventure. Trust me, you’ll both be glad for the experience.

To make the most of your Valentine’s Day excursion, check out these additional [travel tips](#).

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# Travel Tips: Avoiding Timeshare Scams



Content provided by [RedWeek.com](http://RedWeek.com)

A timeshare can be a solid investment if you're planning to [travel](#) for vacation. Unfortunately, these days there seem to be more timeshare scams in the news. Whether you're renting, owning, or intending to buy, here are some [tips](#) from [RedWeek.com](http://RedWeek.com) that help you know what to expect and can help make these scams easy to avoid for a worry-free vacation.

**If you are renting or buying, there is less of a risk for timeshare**

**scams because there is typically a membership or fee involved. But, you can still protect yourself in two ways:**

**1. Use a credible escrow service which can hold onto your money.** It's highly recommended to use First American Title for both renting and buying. Using an escrow is the only real way to be sure your money will be returned if the week isn't what was agreed on.

**2. Get any important expectations of your purchase in contract form.** If the owner promises you a guaranteed view or amenity that you expect, make sure it is in the contract. Even with escrow, a dispute is not valid unless it is specifically detailed in the contract. Verbal promises, and even the ad itself are not sufficient.

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

**If you are a timeshare owner:**

The timeshare resale market is not an easy thing for sellers and that makes owners more vulnerable to scams – from companies claiming that they're able to take the timeshare that's become a burden off your hands. It's easier to relax because Feds are cracking down on these scams, but they are still out there.

These scammers often borrow the name of an established brand to convince you of their legitimacy. They claim to have a buyer for your timeshare, or to be able to easily find one. They ask for money either to cover closing costs or advertising. Many actually go so far as to send you a check (which will later bounce), and ask you to mail the overage

elsewhere.

**Related Link:** [Beware of Sweetheart Scammers This Valentine's Day](#)

**There are four ways you can protect yourself:**

1. Never agree to send any money to anyone without doing your research.

2. To research, do the following things:

– Conduct a Google search on the company name and reviews, add the word “scam” – Often you will find others online who’ve shared their experience with the company even if there hasn’t been an official complaint filed yet.

– Search the RedWeek.com forums – there are many examples of any company that should be avoided.

– Search for the company’s name with the Better Business Bureau, and your attorney general’s office.

– If the company looks legit, it’s essential to call or e-mail the company directly – do NOT use the number they gave you during the solicitation. This will guarantee you’re doing business with the actual company.

3. Never send money to anyone who sends you a check that is more than the purchase price.

4. Report any cases of fraud to RedWeek, as well as your state’s attorney general to help protect other owners.

There is always something that tries to ruin your well-deserved vacation days, but if you follow these tips it won’t be a timeshare scam. All that’s left now is to plan your getaway and some fun activities, and you’ll be relaxing in no time.

**Do you have any tips to avoid vacation scams? Comment below!**

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# 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 it's 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.**

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# 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!

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# 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.

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# 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.**

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# 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.**

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## 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 guide 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.**

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# Travel Tips: 5 Activities for the Most Unusual and Fun Holiday in the UK



The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, and British Museum are all fascinating places that you definitely should see when you get a chance. However, if you want to make your holiday in the UK truly unforgettable, you'll need to get off the beaten path. And that doesn't mean simply going to explore the gorgeous Devon beaches, though that's a good plan for the next time.



# Here are five unusual things to do on a holiday in the UK:

**1. Spot the puffin:** Puffins are adorable and nothing more needs be said about these amazing little birds. You can make sure of it yourself by going on the so-called 'UK safari' that will take you puffin spotting. The season for this adventure is the summer as puffins come to the British cliffs in late April-May and remain there until the middle of August. Discover Wildlife lists the hottest puffin spotting places in the UK so you can find which are best for your planned route. But be sure to remain respectful and stay a bit away from the birds. Modern cameras will allow you to document the adventure without disrupting the lives of these tough little creatures that face hardship every day.

**2. Visit all the best pubs:** Any holiday in the UK must have a few pub visits in the itinerary. The British have all the best pubs with delicious food, great beer, better company, and lots of traditions and atmosphere. Every city, town, and village in the UK has at least one special pub with some fascinating stories, so you should be on the lookout for those wherever you go. Some of them are historic places with decades of history, like The Crooked Pub near Birmingham. London has the greatest number of interesting places that are both traditional and modern. To explore the most fascinating of those you should go on a [Camden pub crawl](#). That neighborhood houses some of the best pubs and bars in the UK. It definitely is the most fun to explore if you are looking for a place to party. This is a great experience for students and everyone who is looking for an evening of drinks and meeting new people.

**3. Visit the Mental Health Museum:** Mental Health Museum stands out from your regular museum list for a holiday in the UK. However, it's a good thing because the place is most

fascinating and will provide you with many stories to tell. As the matter of mental health garners more attention from in the modern society, it will be fascinating to see how people suffering from depression, delusions, psychoses, and other mental conditions used to be treated years ago. Note that some of those stories and exhibits are worryingly reminiscent of horror shows. However, seeing this bit of history will help you understand why the stigma of mental illness is so hard to shake even in the progressive world of today.

**4. Stay the night at the zoo:** Visiting the renowned London Zoo doesn't seem like an unusual thing to do. However, did you know that you can actually spend the night there? You can stay at the Gir Lion Lodge and even witness the after-dark feeding. Going through the zoo at night is a totally different experience to a day tour. The memories of this adventure are sure to be some of the brightest from your holiday in the UK.

**5. Take a look at the greatest collection of neon signs:** God's Own Junkyard is an apt name for a place that makes the streets of Las Vegas seem dull. This is a piece of an actual salvage yard littered with handmade neon signs. There's also a café where you can get a much-needed drink after witnessing the kaleidoscope of neon colors.

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## 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.**

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# 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!**

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## **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?**

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## 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.

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

**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.

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# 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 aer 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!**

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## **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!**

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**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.

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## Romantic Getaway: Destinations in South Africa



So, you've been to Bali, loved the Caribbean, and now you're

searching for another exotic location to visit with your loved one. Why not tour South Africa? Enjoy breathtaking sunsets across African skies while you sip a crisp chardonnay on the balcony of your luxury hotel.

**There are so many romantic destinations in South Africa, and it's challenging to fit them all in in one trip. Plan your trip over two weeks and visit these fantastic parts of the country.**

### **Champagne Castle – The Drakensberg**

The mountainous region stretches from the lower Free state all the way through to Kwa-Zulu Natal. Luxury hotels litter the mountain peaks offering spectacular views of the mountains. This area of South Africa becomes a magical wonderland in the wintertime, but bring a jacket because it gets chilly.

### **Chapmans Peak – Hout Bay**

Nestled between Noordhoek and Hout Bay, Chapman's peak features a tolled cliff road that stretches between the two towns. The scenery takes your breath away as you drive along the Cliffside and stare down at the water over the Indian Ocean. Relax with your partner and enjoy the perfect place in South Africa to watch an ocean sunset.

### **The Wine Route – Western Cape**

This stretch of lush coastline between Gaansbaai and Knysna is home to a wide variety of indigenous flora and fauna. It's spectacular in the springtime after the first rains soak the earth. This region also hosts some of the world's most

beautiful wine farms and luxurious 5-star hotels.

### **Cape Point – Cape Town**

At the tip of the African continent lies Cape Point Nature Reserve. This natural wonder offers lazy hikes in an Oceanside wilderness and the opportunity to see the wild side of South Africa with your partner. Keep any food out of site, or risk harassment from baboons.

### **The Golden Mile – Durban**

South Africa's beach town and home to sand, surfing, and sunshine. Swim in the warm Indian Ocean and take a surfing lesson with your partner. Durban has a friendly beach vibe and local culture. Enjoy a "bunny chow" with your partner as you watch the waves break on the beachfront.

### **The Magaliesburg – Gauteng**

The hills and valleys of the Magaliesburg are only a short drive from the hustle and bustle of Johannesburg. The region is home to "The Cradle of Humankind," where scientists discovered the oldest human fossils. Enjoy a hike in the hills and have a picnic at Hartebeespoort dam on your way home.

### **The Skeleton Coast – Namibia**

The desolation of the desert dunes along the skeleton coast provides some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Camp in a tent constructed around the skeleton of a beached whale and take a safari along the endless isolated beaches.

### **A Final Travel Tip**

If you visit South Africa in the summer, expect hot days and warm nights throughout the country. Pack plenty of sunscreen and don't forget your visa applications, as well as [comprehensive travel insurance](#).

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# Travel Tips: Indulge in a Romantic Getaway in Tuscany



Looking for somewhere to bring your special someone for a romantic getaway? Look no further than Italy's Tuscan Region, covering the northeastern part of the country. Apart from the history and fine wine, visitors can stay at some of the very [best villas in Tuscany](#) for the ultimate getaway.

**Whether you're looking for a quick**

**vacation or a place to spend your honeymoon, this part of Italy is for you. Keep reading and discover a travel tips to keep in mind before planning your getaway.**

### **Splurge on Accommodation**

Tuscany is an expensive place to take a holiday. And value for money tends to increase with the more you spend. Rather than try to cut back and save on costs, splash out on something memorable. The cost of a boutique hotel will cost over \$150 per night anyway. Why not double the budget and get a luxurious villa or stay at a classier establishment. Everyone deserves a taste of the fine life every once in a while; Tuscany makes an ideal place to do it.

### **Plan What Time of the Year You Want to Visit**

This tip doesn't apply to everyone. Instead, it helps with those looking to arrange a trip later in the year. Each season comes with its own distinct flavour. Summer usually gets the most tourists to bask in the pleasant temperatures and sunny days. Both spring and autumn feature magic of blooming flowers and the leaves changing colour. Christmas usually turns into a winter wonderland. Planning a trip to coincide with the seasons will enhance the type of experience you have. Can anything be more romantic than a glass of wine on your balcony overlooking a blanket of orange and yellow leaves?

### **Get a Set of Wheels**

This suggestion applies to almost every tourist to Tuscany. If you have a car, it gives you the flexibility to explore the best of the region. From the historical old towns to castles

and vineyards, the region is best explored by car. Get online and research the quaint towns and villages and surprise your special someone with a serendipitous day trip. After leaving the city, expect almost deserted country lanes and undulating hills. Check out San Gimignano and Siena in Tuscany too.

### **Save the Road Trip for Next Time**

Ideally, if you want to have a more romantic experience, it might be better to base yourself in one location. While it can be tempting to explore as much of the region as possible, this type of travel isn't consistent with romance. Base yourself in Florence and take day trips to some of the villages and towns as suggested above. Or find a cosy spot to stay the night in one of the charismatic towns. If you do want to drive around and explore Tuscany to the fullest, come back again another time. You should be prioritising on fine-dining and experiences rather than sitting behind the wheel of a car.

### **Not Sure What to Do? Rent a Bike**

If you visit in the summer, one of the best ways to explore Tuscany is on the saddle. Bicycle rentals are available in Florence and other major destinations. You can either explore the city or head out along the country lanes. A favourite activity is cycling to the next town for lunch and returning in the late afternoon. Or buy some lunch from the supermarket and have a picnic next to the vineyards. Either way, cycling offers a different experience and perspective on the Tuscan region which adds to the romance. And to top it off, when you pedal rather than drive, you'll be reducing your carbon footprint.

### **Make the Most of Tuscan Wine**

When the region produces tens of thousands of bottles of wine each year, it presents the opportunity to become a connoisseur for the day. Head to the supermarket and you'll find familiar names as well as local brands lining the shelves. Grab a



bottle and sip a glass or two in the early evening. Or, for a more hands-on experience, you can take a tour to one of the wineries. Options include visiting independently or joining a wine tasting tour. The second is better for obvious reasons. If you're spending two or three days in Florence, getting out of the city to try some of the local drink is a must. And when you find the bottle you like the most, bring a couple back to replicate the romance back home. The best places to visit from Florence include Biondi Santi, Salcheto and Antinori Chianti Classico.

### **Have an Idea of What You Want to Do**

And finally, don't just turn up in Tuscany and go with the flow. That approach to travel doesn't work on a short getaway. When you consider how big the region is and the diversity of attractions, it's a better idea to plan a rough itinerary. You don't need to go into too much depth, but it pays to have a sense of the types of activities you want to do and when. For example, why not research the restaurants near your accommodation before getting on the plane? Then as soon as you land, you know exactly where to go.

### **Embracing the Romance in Tuscany**

Tuscany is one of the most romantic destinations in Europe. Offering a diverse range of experiences, it's a magnet for couples on short breaks to honeymooners. Follow the suggestions in this article, and you'll be able to have the best holiday imaginable. Remember to book somewhere nice to stay, rent a car (or a bike) and make the most of the region's wine.

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# 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 will 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 want to eat at. This way, you can make sure you have time to do everything you want to and make your trip less stressful, as you've got everything organized.

**Related Link:** [Travel Tips: Have a Dream Vacation In an Italian Villa](#)

**3. Bring enough money:** They do say time is money, so to make the most of your trip, it's important you bring enough money to do everything you want to. You don't want to have to miss out on a fun excursion because you don't have the \$20 to pay for it.

**4. Embrace changes:** Even if you plan out a detailed schedule, sometimes plans change while on vacation and that's totally okay. Don't be afraid to embrace any changes that come along, who knows, you might end up on a crazy adventure you never expected.

**Related Link:** [Travel Advice: 10 Insider Tips for the Perfect Saint Barths Getaway](#)

**5. Savor the moments:** While on vacation, remember to just enjoy your time. Don't worry about all the work you have to do when you get home or how many days left you have. To make the most of your vacation, remain in the moment and enjoy every second of your trip.

**Have any more tips on how to make the most of your vacation? Comment below!**

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# Product Review: Summer 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](http://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](#).

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## **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](http://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](#).*

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## **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](http://www.lesilets.com) or email [info@lesilets.com](mailto:info@lesilets.com).

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## Romantic Getaway: Travel in The Deep Blue Sea



By [Jessica Gomez](#)

Sometimes the sea calls out to us, and who better to enjoy the deep waters with than your other half? Activities like scuba diving and snorkeling are popular because, well, who doesn't love deep water exploration? It can be intimidating, but the experience is absolutely astonishing. So, put these activities on your bucket list and get ready to read about several places where you can enjoy the hidden wonders of the deep waters.

**Plan a [romantic getaway](#) to any of these five places and make sure to schedule a snorkeling or scuba diving appointment:**

Before we get into it, some of you may be asking what the difference is between snorkeling and scuba diving. They are both incredible water activities, but the difference is that during one you go deeper, and it's a far more intense and beautiful experience. When you go snorkeling, you wear a snorkel, a mask and a tube, and swim near the surface of the water so you can breathe. During scuba diving, you are in full deep swimming gear, a diving suit and an oxygen tank. Now, let's get to the places around the world, with the best deep underwater views, where you can partake in some summer fun:

1. [Hawaii](#): You can choose between Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Lanai, Molokai, and Island of Hawaii. All these places are the ones to go to for some underwater fun. Swim with the dolphins, enjoy the reefs – take it all in. This is just another reason to go to Hawaii. \*Starts packing bags\*

2. [The Maldives](#): Being one of the most beautiful places in the world, there sure is a lot to be seen in its waters. When scuba diving, you'll feel like your swimming in a huge aquarium. The water is home to a multitude of beautiful species, including 700 different kinds of fish! You can

definitely learn a thing or two about sea life here.

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

3. **[Australia](#)**: Did you know Australia has the largest coral reef ecosystem in the world? Australia's Great Barrier Reef is made up of 2,900 individual reefs that stretch across the shoreline. You'll be able to dive and witness the amazing sea life and all the coral you could wish for. Time to see all the color and beauty an underwater adventure has to provide.

4. **[Dominican Republic](#)**: This may be surprising for some because the island is so small, but Silver Bank is one of the few places in the world where we can swim along side humpback whales! So cool. Dominican Republic is already known as paradise, what with the rivers and all the clear water the Caribbean has to offer. So here is an additional reason to visit the island.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Travel: Top 5 European Hotspots](#)

5. **[Ecuador](#)**: This is the one on the list that is the most different. Why, you ask? Because it isn't surrounded by coral and all the tropical fish you can imagine. This is where you go to check out marine life. You will see all kinds of animals, from sea lions and sharks to dolphins and penguins. Fun and educational – interact with the beautiful creatures from the sea and enjoy paradise.

**Which place do you want to travel to? Comment below!**

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## **Travel Tips: How To Make Your**

# Own 4th of July Adventure



By [Haley Lerner](#)

Barbeques, red, white and blue, and fireworks on a beautiful beach. We know, you've been dreaming about the perfect Fourth of July getaway. For your patriotic trip, it's definitely best to stay in the United States so you can witness celebrations of the holiday. So, don't worry, we have the perfect getaway ideas that will make you feel like you're on a [celebrity vacation](#) this Independence Day.

**Check out these [travel destinations](#) that will make your 4th of July**

# spectacular!

**1. New York City, NY:** While a trip to the Big Apple might not be like the typical dream beach vacation, it sure is a great place to be on America's birthday. Go to Manhattan to catch the extravagant Macy's 4th of July Firework show over the East River. Try booking a cruise to watch the fireworks explode in front of the Statue of Liberty and the city skyline.

**2. Key West, FL:** Now here's that dream beach getaway you were hoping for! Key West is a beautiful place with fabulous resorts and water activities like snorkeling, fishing, and kayaking. Plus, July 1-4 is the annual Key Lime Festival with activities such as pie eating contests, rum sampling and fireworks.

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

**3. New Orleans, LA:** Go to the Big Easy for an awesome Independence Day trip. Catch a view of the city's Go 4th on the River fireworks show that features dueling barges on the Mississippi River. Take a cruise on the Creole Queen, Steamboat Natchez or another riverboat for an awesome view of the fireworks. Spend the rest of the weekend eating and dancing away!

**4. Washington, D.C.:** Where else is better to celebrate the birth of the United States than the country's capital? Spend your trip visiting monuments and scoping out the White House. Set up a picnic at National Mall and enjoy fireworks at night with your family.

**Related Link:** [Hiking & Camping Travel Destinations that Make for a Great Date Idea](#)

**5. Boston, MA:** Boston is a city full of Revolutionary War history and heritage. Check out Boston Harborfest in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, and take advantage of war reenactments,

cruises, speeches, music and walking tours. You can visit Paul Revere's house and other historical war sites. The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is an amazing show which includes real cannon fire!

**Know any other great 4th of July destinations? Comment below!**