

Travel Tips: The World's Most Festive Locations to Celebrate Christmas



By [Ahjané Forbes](#)

Christmas is right around the corner, and it can be stressful planning a trip for this holiday. Here are some options for the perfect [vacation destination](#).

If you're on the nice list, you deserve a treat this holiday. Here are some travel tips for places you should visit to spread some holiday joy:

1. Leavenworth, Washington: If you want to imagine you live in the snow globe of your childhood, then Washington is the place to be. This is a great area to visit with some friends. The state has mountains that get covered in snow every year. The streets are lit with lights, and the community is very festive with Christmas caroling and other activities. You can also go to in the local gazebo, indulge in some sledding, and go on sleigh rides.

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2. Santa Claus, Indiana: "America's Christmas Hometown" is a great destination for the kids. You can go to Santa's house and enjoy the fun. Reindeer, chestnuts, and Santa's post

office are all available on this trip. Your child can send a letter to Mr. Claus, and they will get an answer back!

3. New York, New York: The city that never sleeps has a lot of activities for couples. From Christmas to New Year's Eve, you and your partner can enjoy this holiday. There are tree lighting ceremonies, carriage rides through Central Park, and of course, the Macy's Day Parade. Many couples like to stay in the Big Apple until New Year's Eve to ring in the new year with a kiss.

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4. Montego Bay, Jamaica: This parish is easy to get to because it has an airport. Although there will not be a reindeer in sight, you and your friends will be able to have lots of fun. You can swim with dolphins or sting rays, go snorkeling, play dominoes, swim in the pool, or golf, while also visiting nearby parishes. The country has beautiful beaches and delicious food. Tourists often like to go to Dunn's River where they are able to climb up the natural waterfall. Many of the resorts offer packages for groups that include many day trips.

5. Nassau, Bahamas: Santa might not be on this tropical island, but the kids won't mind. The white sand beaches will distract them when they're making sand castles and swimming in the clear blue water. If you feel that your child may lose some classroom engagement while they're on the trip; Nassau has some activities that will keep them up to speed. Pirates of Nassau is a museum that displays the life of the most notorious pirates. The museum has activities for both genders and tells you the history of a famous pirate named Blackbeard.

6. Kauai, Hawaii: You both can get your alone time for an affordable price during the holiday. Although the island is known for its volcanoes and culture, there are some great spots where you and your partner can get cozy. Hanalei Bay is

a great place to enjoy each other's company. You can go paddle boarding or for a swim in the sea. The nearby resort offers surfing lessons, food tours and sightseeing. There's also a hike trail that will test your ability to work together.

Where do you want to go to this Christmas? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Destination: Vacation in Egypt Like Kourtney Kardashian



 By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Think outside the box next time you plan your next vacation! Egypt might not be the first [travel destination](#) on your mind, but it has a lot to offer. One glance at the marvelous Pyramids of [Kourtney Kardashian's](#) recent vacation makes it clear. Egypt is a majestic vacation destination. You can visit historic Egypt or vacation in luxury along the Red Sea. The options are all beautiful and you will be ready to go back for more. Check out our [travel advice](#)!

Take your vacation to Egypt for your next travel destination!

When you think of Egypt you likely go straight to the Pyramids. Egypt has a lot more to offer. It has majestic historic vacation sights, beautiful beaches, and exquisite

cuisine. Cupid has some [travel tips](#) for places to vacation in Egypt:

1. Cairo: Cairo is the largest city in Egypt. It is close to the famous pyramids found in Giza. It is at the center of historic Egypt. If you want to visit Egypt's popular historic monuments and pyramids then Cairo is the place to stay so you can visit all the nearby historical artifacts like the Sphinx or pyramids, or travel up the Nile.

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2. Alexandria: Want to see another side of historic Egypt? You should take a trip to Alexandria. The city was founded by Alexander the Great and served as the capital during two different eras in Egypt: Macedonian and Roman-ruled Egypt. It is the beautiful home to ancient monuments of both Greek and Roman design.

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3. The beach: Want to go on a memorable beach vacation? Then look no further than Egypt's the Red Sea. It houses luxury beach resorts along the east coast and the Sinai Peninsula. It is a great destination for scuba diving with its clear waters and historic shipwrecks.

4. The Nile: If you visit Cairo you have to make a trip to The Nile. The Nile is the longest river in the world and flows from south to north, something that is very rare. You can visit the Nile by land or water, with cruise ships that make their way around the area over three to five days or spend a few hours enjoying the Nile from land after a couple of hours riding in a car.

What are some historical sites you'd like to visit in Egypt?

Let us know in the comments below.

Travel Destinations: 5 Peaceful and Relaxing Vacations for Couples



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

When you spend your days working hard and stressing over meeting deadlines, paying bills, and taking care of a family, you can find yourself feeling drained. At the end of the day, you need a vacation, one away from the kids with just your partner and you. A stress-free, kid-free, relaxing vacation. When you're planning your [vacation destination](#) look for something relaxing that can replenish your soul without the over-energetic themes that surround some destinations. Stay tuned for some [travel destinations](#) you and your partner can visit for a relaxing vacation.

You work hard, and now it's time to find a relaxing travel destination for you and your partner to take a much needed vacation.

When you're searching for the perfect vacation destination you'll want to think about what can bring you tranquility. Whether your perfect relaxing vacation is somewhere on a

beautiful beach or sipping coffee overlooking a beautiful mountainside, there is a perfect relaxing travel destination awaiting you:

1. Cape Elizabeth, Maine: Do you love lighthouses and tranquil water? Cape Elizabeth is home to two active lighthouses. You and your partner can take a nice stroll along the cape, exploring the beautiful land near the sea, and the lighthouses.

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2. Lumahai, Hawaii: Hawaii is home to dozens of beaches, with their beautiful blue waters and white sand. If you really want to have some relaxing down time with your partner you should check out Lumahai Beach. Lumahai is perfect for lounging in the sun, but it is not as busy as the other beaches because it's not the greatest swimming spot with its strong undertow, so you will have an easier time relaxing while catching some rays.

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3. Blue Lagoon, Iceland: Iceland is a beautiful travel destination, especially if you take time to visit Blue Lagoon. The relaxing waters at Blue Lagoon, heated by volcanic aquifers, are a place you and your partner can really enjoy each other's company in the relaxing hot waters while all your worries melt away.

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4. Provence, France: This French region is a place you and your partner can get lost in beauty. The vineyards and views of the Alps are captivating beyond measure. You can grab a glass of wine and enjoy some time outside admiring to beautiful, calming views. Visit one of the popular cities

nearby like Marseille and the French Riviera.

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5. Santorini, Greece: Santorini is a beautiful oasis. The island itself makes visitors feel like you're traveling to a city in the clouds. Romance permeates the air, and when the sun goes down the city glows like thousands of stars in the sky. It is the ideal travel destination for a romantic and relaxing vacation with the person you love.

What are some of your favorite relaxing travel destinations? Let us know your thoughts in the comments below.

Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Beach Vacations



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Now that summer is here, it is time to choose your [vacation destination](#), and what better place to go than to hit the beach? A good beach vacation can be a ton of fun, and it is an affordable way to take the family on a getaway filled with excitement and time in the sun. Some of the beach vacation location options might surprise you.

Summer is here, and that means it's time to find the best beaches for

your summer vacation destination.

Not only does the beach offer a great place to get a tan and cool off in the water, but it can be affordable as well. Cupid has the top five beach vacation destinations for you and your family:

1. Williamsburg, Virginia: Williamsburg is more than a beautiful historic community. It also houses the beautiful Virginia Beach. Better yet, should you tire of long strolls on the beach, Williamsburg has numerous tourist attractions including the American Revolution Museum and the Busch Gardens theme park.

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2. Daytona Beach, Florida: According to *CNBC.com*, Daytona Beach has more than 23 miles of sandy beaches. Known for the Daytona International Speedway, this beach location has more to offer than sand dunes and beautiful blue waves. Visitors can enjoy the many shopping locations, water parks, and museums throughout the city.

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3. Monterey, California: Monterey has numerous beach vacations for your family to enjoy. If you're looking for something a little more remote, you can even check out the Del Monte Beach, which is more tucked away than the more popular stretches of the beach. You can also do some shopping and visit the aquarium while you are in Monterey.

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4. Wellfleet, Massachusetts: You might not automatically think

“beach” when you think about Massachusetts, but there is no denying the beauty of the Bound Brook Island Beach in Wellfleet. Wellfleet is flanked by pretty beaches, and nature trails where you and your family can learn about the environment around you on your trip.


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5. Captiva Island, Florida: Unlike some of its more widely known locations, Captiva Island is a smaller island in Florida where you can really take your time and relax. Just grab the family and your fishing rods, and enjoy the tranquil beach along Captiva’s beautiful shores.

What are some of your favorite beach vacation locations? Let us know your thoughts in the comments below.

Vacation Destinations: Underrated Vacation Locations



 By: Emily Green

It’s finally June, which means it’s officially summer! Summer is the prime time for people to relax and try new things, like checking out new destinations for vacation. While most people tend to think of relaxing on tropical islands or Florida beaches, or heading on a trip to spot your favorite celebrity, there are plenty of less obvious places all around the United States where you can [travel](#) and experience new and exciting adventure.

There are plenty of fun and exciting new places you can go to on vacation! Here are Cupid's top five underrated vacation destinations:

1. Sedona, Arizona: Beaches not your thing? Try heading out to Sedona for some hiking in the beautiful, picturesque red rock cliffs. After hiking, the town of Sedona is full of relaxing day spas, bed and breakfasts, and small shops that you can go through- relaxing at its finest! Once you're ready to head out again, if you want to visit the Grand Canyon, it is only a 2 hour drive from Sedona, making Sedona the perfect place to stay on your vacation!

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2. Fire Island, New York: If you're looking for a place to relax for the weekend, Fire Island is the perfect place to stay. Only about an hour and a half drive outside of New York City, Fire Island offers long stretches of beautiful beaches, a scenic lighthouse, and many resorts and shops. Whether you're looking for a simple weekend away or a special trip, Fire Island has everything you could possibly need.

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3. Annapolis, Maryland: Annapolis is a great place to visit, especially if you're a history buff. Home to the US Naval Academy, the Banneker-Douglass Museum and State House and much more, Annapolis is a key place to learn about the history of Maryland. After exploring the different monuments and landmarks, enjoy a cruise on one of the tour boats on the Chesapeake Bay or on one of the surrounding rivers. Once your

tour is through, you can get some of Maryland's infamous fresh crab, and can learn just how much Marylanders love old bay on their crabs (and everything else).

4. Nashville, Tennessee: As the capital of country music, Nashville has everything a country music lover could ever want. See a show at the Grand Ole Opry or take a tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame. You never know who you might see! Aside from the awesome country music spots, you can take a trolley tour of the town to see all of the historical spots and landmarks the town has to offer. Afterward, try the Nashville Pub Crawl (if you are of age) and get a taste of what nightlife is like in this country-filled town.

5. Charleston, South Carolina: Another place for a great taste of the south is Charleston, SC. Ranked America's #1 small city, there's a bit of everything for everyone in this small city. The bustling French Quarter and Battery Districts are great places to get a taste of typical life in Charleston, from the shops to the amazing views and scenery. Charleston also has a lot of history, with the Fort Sumter National Monument finding home in Charleston's harbor, a short boat ride for an amazing tour. After, make sure you stop by the University of South Carolina for a football game. Go Gamecocks!

Which one of these locations caught your interest? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Destinations: Visit

the Great Smoky Mountains & Pigeon Forge



By [Mara Miller](#)

Summertime is here! That means it's a fantastic time to choose a [travel destination](#) like Pigeon Forge and to explore The Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. The area is rich in Appalachian history, especially up in the Smokies where you can still find old cabins, such as the Tipton Place homestead, settled in the 1820s by Revolutionary War veteran William "Fighting Billy" Tipton. After you're done exploring the Smokies, you can spend a few nights in Pigeon Forge, where there are a variety of fun things to do and explore.

Searching for great [travel tips](#) and [travel advice](#)? Make the Great Smoky Mountains and Pigeon Forge your next travel destination!

Great Smoky Mountains:

Part of the precious Appalachian Mountain Trail, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Tennessee is a part of the chain that expands through 18 states. The mountains have been around for thousands of years, dating back to Paleo Indians to European settlers. Established as a national park in 1934, more than 1,200 people had to leave their land once it was established. The park is important in preserving the thriving forest and wildlife.

1. Cades Cove: Cades Cove is an 11-mile road that is great to

explore early in the mornings if you want to sight wildlife. Animals you'll see are turkeys, white-tailed deer, black bears, coyotes, and rabbits. It still has three churches, a working grist mill, barns, log houses, and many other restored 18th and 19th century buildings. You can hike or bike the back-country, too! Just keep in mind that the road opens to motor vehicles at 10:00 am.

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2. Horseback riding: If you love horses, then you may want to ride one of the trails in the Smokies. You can book a guided horse ride, hay ride, or take a carriage or wagon ride. There are even five drive-in horse camps so you can explore with your own horse. Riding a horse is a great way to experience nature in the mountains. Just keep in mind that horses are restricted to areas designated only for horse use.

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3. Picnicking: Are you looking for an excuse to have a romantic getaway? Grab your partner and go for a picnic in the Smokies! Just be sure to prepare for your picnic before you head into the park. There are specific areas designated for picnics and you should always be sure to never feed the wildlife.

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4. Camping: Camping is another great way to experience the Smokies this summer. Whether you're bringing camping gear or an RV, spending a few nights in the mountains will give you a chance to unwind from everyday life. The campgrounds have running water and flushing toilets in the front-country, but back-country may not offer these amenities and you must have a permit and must call ahead of time if you are planning on

hiking to your camp destination.

Pigeon Forge:

Surrounded by the Smoky Mountains with a history dating back before the Revolutionary War, Pigeon Forge was once a small farming community before it became a mountain city.

1. Dollywood: Need we say more? With the Smoky Mountains as a backdrop to this theme park, Dollywood is home to some of the South's largest festivals. It has more than 40 rides and attractions such as Wild Eagle, FireChaser Express, and Lightning Rod (the world's fastest roller coaster). They even have a water park!


2. Go-karts and mini-golf: Pigeon Forge is surrounded by go-karts and mini-golf. It has more than 10 different tracks to choose from, including one that is Nascar themed. Mini-golf is another fun option for your family, especially if your children are little and don't want to go to the go-karts.

3. Shows: Don't leave Pigeon Forge without checking one of their shows out! You can experience live music and country dancing at Country Tonight Theatre and The Smoky Mountain Opry, comedy at The Comedy Theatre Barn or you can find some family-friendly dinner shows like Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show.

There are a lot of great things to do in Pigeon Forge and the Smokies. Have we missed anything you love to do when you visit? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Destination: Top 5 Bakeries You Need to Try in NYC



 By Megan McIntosh

New York City is definitely a popular tourist destination for people all over the world. There's so much to do and see. You can check out Broadway or try for a [celebrity](#) sighting. If you are headed to New York City as a [travel destination](#), then it's certain that one of the reasons you're probably going is for the food. But whether you're in the mood for breakfast or dessert, you can't go wrong by checking out New York City's bakeries.

Travel Destination: Heading to New York City for a girl's weekend or a week of relaxation and tourist fun? Cupid has five bakeries to try.

There are a variety of shops and bakeries to choose from when you're visiting NYC. You really can't wrong as long as you see people shopping inside. However, Cupid has the top 5 bakeries in NYC based on reviews.

1. Buttercup Bake Shop : Located in Midtown East, this bakery has been reviewed by people who say you'll definitely be satisfied if you stop by. The majority of fans seem to rave about the cupcakes, calling them moist with an icing that's to die for. This is definitely a bake shop for those with a sweet tooth as they also have meringue, cakes, and cookies. But make

sure you're wanting to eat these sweets on the go as it's a small shop, and get there early so you don't miss out on the variety.

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2. Veniero's: Located in the East village, this Italian bakery has been reviewed by over a thousand people. This is the place if you want to go somewhere with history, as this has been in the family for a while with third generation owners. This place is so good that people come from out of state to get their cheesecakes and fruit tarts. Check it out if you want a great selection where you're sure not to be disappointed.

3. Bagels & Schmear : Located in Flatiron, this bakery is a breakfast dream come true. Open at 6am, they're ready to feed you at the earliest hour. With a variety of cream cheese spreads and bagels, you're sure to find the perfect combination for your tastebuds. It's got the bang for your buck, especially in NYC.

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4. Simit Sarayi: Located in Midtown East, this bakery is actually a Turkish bakery. Try the Turkish version of a bagel called a Simit which is basically a thinner and bigger bagel glazed with sesame seeds. It's definitely a treat and a stand out from the rest of the choices on the block.

5. Patisserie Chanson: Located in Flatiron, this Patisserie greets you with baked goodies as soon as you walk in. They have coffee, ice cream, and a dessert bar at night. Come on the weekend and enjoy afternoon tea with the girls.

What are the top bakeries you've been to in NYC? Share below!

Travel Tips: Pocket Friendly U.S. Travel Destinations



☒ The United States has consistently ranked at the top of many tourists' bucket list, and it is no surprise that it houses some of the most visited travel destinations around the world. From Hollywood to the Statue of Liberty to exotic beaches, the U.S. has it all!

Many times, first-time travelers are worried about the expenses they will incur on trip to the U.S., however, worry not! We've got you covered. However, if you've saved some [money from that jackpot win of yours, check out these other holiday destinations](#) as well!

Check out our list of top cities in the U.S. which are tourist-friendly as well as light on the pocketbook.

San Antonio, TX

Every year, around three million tourists make it a point to visit [San Antonio](#), Texas for the extremely famous River Walk. In addition to this, you can also visit the Alamo, the King William Historic Area, and the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park. There are multiple options for local travel while there, but for the best experience, you should hire Greyhound buses which will show you the Mexican culture of the city. In the River Walk district, you will find accommodation starting from \$20 per night for one bed.

San Diego, CA

San Diego is a kid-friendly travel destination for many reasons. To begin with, the temperature is pleasant throughout the year, which compliments the clear water beaches like Mission Beach and Pacific Beach. Afterward, you can hire a ferry to reach the Coronado Ferry Centre, which will allow you to access the local markets for taking back small goodies, or to visit the San Diego Harbour Excursion.

Flights to San Diego will be your only major expense. Once you reach the city, you can find rooms for an average price of around \$120, and if you're a solo traveler, make that amount \$30 for a bed in a hostel.

Kansas City, MO

Kansas City has topped the list of most affordable travel destinations in the USA several times. Infused with rich art, culture and culinary cuisines, the barbecue joints will definitely impress all the foodies out there.

Many places like the Boulevard Brewing Company and the Harley-Davidson Plant offer guided tours which provide a unique experience. Art lovers will enjoy the Crossroads Art District, which hosts a plethora of art galleries.

A hotel room in Kansas will cost you little over \$100. Since the city is located in the center of the country, accessibility isn't an issue. For travelling in and around the city, you can rent a car or use the bus service, although the bus routes are restricted to the inner parts of the city.

Atlanta, GA

Famous for hosting the 1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta has innumerable outdoor activities on offer. The city landscapes will charm you with their scenic beauty. Stone Mountain Park is among the most visited sites in the city, where you can go

hiking.

Furthermore, Atlanta's airport is counted among the world's busiest, thus alleviating all your worries about traveling to the city. Accommodation is available in multiple parts of the city at reasonable rates, and we suggest that you stay in the area that you want to explore.

What are some other affordable cities to consider as your next travel destination? Share your thoughts 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!

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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.

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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 its 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!

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.

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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.

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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!

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.

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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.

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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!

Travel Destinations: Top 5 Castles To Visit In America



 By [Jessica Gomez](#)

Who doesn't love real-life castles? Most of us grew up reading and dreaming about them, what with fairy tales and all. Usually, the second we think "castle," we picture those in Europe. However, there are some closer to home within the United States! What's even better is that they're super nice and open to the public. Consider making some of these castles part of your upcoming [vacation destinations](#).

Here are five castles to include on

your list of travel destinations, in no particular order, and all in different states:

1. [Belvedere Castle](#): This castle is located in an unexpected place – New York City. Yes, you read that right! Location is partially what makes this castle so alluring. In 1865, this Gothic structure was built in Central Park. The castle is now a visitor center and is open to the public for free.

2. [Castle in the Clouds aka Lucknow Estate](#): This small and modest, yet beautiful castle is located in Moultonborough, New Hampshire high on a mountain. It is open daily, and you take a trolley up the mountain to get to it. If you love nature, then be sure to visit, as it is meant to achieve harmony with the pleasantries around it. Castle in the Clouds has unique innovations inside like jigsaw floors, a self-cleaning oven, and a central-vacuuming system.

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

3. [Hearst Castle](#): This castle is located in California and is a national historic landmark. The mansion is located in Simeon and was built by architect Julia Morgan to serve as a private residence for William Randolph, a newspaper mogul. Unfortunately, Randolph died before it was finished. Now, it serves as a museum to the public, displaying collections of art and antiques.

4. [Biltmore Estate](#): This castle has 250 rooms and overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is located in Asheville, North Carolina and was built in 1898. It took six years to build and was designed by architects Richard Morris Hunt and Frederick Law Olmsted. Today, this estate covers about 8,000 acres, standing on both sides of the French Broad River.

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5. [Bishop's Palace aka Gresham Castle](#): This Victorian castle is located in Galveston, Texas. The national historic landmark is listed as one of the most significant Victorian residences. It was finished in 1892, and was built by lawyer and railroad entrepreneur Colonel Walter Gresham and architect Nicholas Clayton.

Which of these castles are you excited to go to, or have you already visited? Comment below!

Fashion Tips: Best Summer Bags For The Beach



 By [Carly Horowitz](#)

The time is approaching where you'll be able to feel warm grains of sand between your toes and relish in the sound of waves crashing down on the shore in a forceful yet relaxing manner. To get the most enjoyable experience, you need to remember to bring the essentials like sunscreen, water, snacks, sunglasses, and a beach towel. But, how are you going to transport all of these items onto the sandy shore? You need a beach bag that is large enough to store your items and that also won't get ruined in the setting at hand. It is a struggle to find a bag that is suitable for the beach yet stylish at the same time. Cupid is here to help you with the process and give you ideas on what type of beach bags to look for this summer!

Take into consideration these [fashion tips](#) on which beach bags are best for summer 2018.

1. Sand-proof bag: Did you know there are specially designed bags that resist the stick of sand? That is just perfect for the beach! No one likes to come back from the beach with sand dripping off of them and their bag. This bag helps to minimize the mess. Search on Amazon.com for a sand-proof bag made out of silicone to sport to your favorite beach this summer.

2. Straw bag: This type of bag is probably the most stylish to don. There are an array of different straw bags on the market with fun patterns. Straw bags give off a traditional beachy look while still serving to contain all your items succinctly. The only problem with straw bags is that they usually don't provide different compartments for you to store your stuff. But it's up to you if you want to choose fashion over practicality!

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3. See-through mesh bag: Your most affordable beach bag option is definitely a see-through mesh bag. You can usually get these in a pretty large size as well. They are durable and made out of nylon so they are easy to pack away when you are not using it in the other months! Mesh bags are a great portable option for when you are embarking on some exciting [travel destinations](#).

4. Canvas bag: Canvas bags are also a pretty stylish choice for the beach. Find one that has rope handles so that it provides a more nautical feel. Search for specific canvas beach bags with cool patterns and you most definitely won't be let down.

Related Link: [Product Review: Celebrity Style Goes to The Beach](#)

5. Bag with cooler: Instead of bringing both a large bag and a cooler to the beach, invest in a product that has both! There are many beach bags that serve as both a bag and a cooler at the bottom. Now, your water bottles will stay nice and cold for you on hot summer beach days.

Do you know of any other great beach bags that we need to get for the summer? Comment below!

Impromptu Romantic Getaways For NYC Love Birds



By [Jessica Gomez](#)

Sometimes we just need to get out of town with our other half, and pronto! Vacations take planning, but do all of them require tons of it? The answer is no. New York City is centrally located to many great romantic getaways that aren't very far away, have beautiful views, and will keep you in a love bubble during your stay.

Here are five beautiful vacation spots awaiting you love birds, and they're just a romantic drive away:

[Cove Haven in Lakeville, PA:](#) This is a very romantic getaway

for you and your partner to consider. It may even be one of the best couple vacation spots near you. There are various suites to choose from, all varying in size and amenities. Many have their own Jacuzzi, and some even have a pool in the room! The theme is love, so you'll see lots of red and hearts. Surround yourself with nature as well, as there's a beautiful view to take in with your other half. You also have the option for an all-inclusive stay if you'd like. Cove Haven is about a two and a half hour drive from New York City.

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Getaway Spots on the East Coast](#)

[Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, NY:](#) About a two hour drive away from New York City, this place is a nice getaway for couples who wish to be in a castle and like to be nestled in a historic atmosphere. The resort is a national historic landmark, dating back to 1869. It is surrounded by 40,000 acres of pristine forest and has an award-winning spa! The food is also locally sourced. Get cozy with your lover by a fireplace, or by the lake and mountains.

Related Link: [5 Must-Visit Locations for Book Loving Couples](#)

[Castle Hill Inn in Newport, RI:](#) This is a nice getaway since it's by the water – there's a beach and a marina. In some rooms you can get a Jacuzzi, fireplace, kitchen, and a deck with a water view. This is also a historic place, but it has been upgraded to meet our modern needs. It is about a three and a half hour ride from New York City.

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[Mount Merino Manor Bed & Breakfast in Hudson, NY:](#) About a two and a half hour drive from NYC, this nice country retreat with luxurious rooms is ready for you. Embrace your surroundings; you'll love the mountain views and fresh air. There are many rooms to choose from. Choose rooms with either a queen or king

sized bed and with walk-in spa showers or antique soaking tubs. This place will have you and your partner feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. Let yourselves get wrapped up in the warmth of love and carried away over the hills.

Related Link: [Top 5 Cost-Efficient Tropical Vacation Destinations](#)

[Fifteen Beacon Hotel in Boston, MA:](#) Stay at this luxurious hotel in the heart of downtown Boston! Each room provides a free bottle of champagne – yum! Indulge in elegance and glamour while you stay here. Plus, the hotel is environmentally conscious due to their green policies and use of eco-friendly products. They put a lot of attention to detail into what they offer as well, so you can get the most out of your stay.

Which one of these places are you New Yorkers dying to go to? Comment below!

Hiking & Camping Travel Destinations that Make for a Great Date Idea



 By [Carly Horowitz](#)

Albert Einstein once said, “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” Participating in activities out in nature improves your overall well-being and mental state. Nothing compares to the deep breaths of fresh air when you are hiking through the mountains or camping in

the woods. Hiking and camping are both amazing mind and body workouts. Why not add your heart into the mix as well? Plan a splendid date nature and your partner. Cupid has narrowed down the seven best hiking and camping [travel destinations](#) that make for a great date idea!

These seven hiking and camping travel destinations in the United States are perfect for a [romantic getaway](#) and make for great date ideas!

1. Mohonk Preserve (New York): The Mohonk Preserve is a great place to hike because they have multiple trail options ranging from easy to difficult. Cupid's personal favorite is the Lemon Squeeze Hike, although it takes a good amount of physical fitness to complete. But then again, it could be a "mind over matter" task. This place is perfect for a romantic getaway, because there is a beautiful resort right on the preserve called the Mohonk Mountain House. Plan a weekend and stay at the beautiful Mohonk Mountain House in the Hudson Valley with your partner! You can spend your days hiking, doing water sports in the lake, and just enjoying nature.

2. Glacier National Park (Montana): This is a fabulous place for both hiking and camping. You can secure a campsite in advance at any of these locations: Fish Creek Reservations, St. Mary Reservations, Apgar Group Site Reservations, or Many Glacier. This destination will really help you and your partner get in touch with nature as you may come across some bears! Be on the lookout, and enjoy all of the wonderful things that nature has to offer.

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[the Sweat](#)

3. Grand Canyon (Arizona): If you have not traveled to the Grand Canyon yet, it is definitely worth it. Travel with your partner to admire the beauty of the red rock together. The best time to hike along the Grand Canyon is around sunrise or sunset. The history of the Grand Canyon is very interesting as well! Feed both your mind and body with knowledge and exercise as you and your boo take the trip..

4. Arches National Park (Utah): Arches National Park exhibits beautiful naturally formed sandstone arches that are great to take pictures with your partner for an Instagram opportunity! This is a very cool hiking spot. You can camp there as well, although camping space is limited. Remember to bring a backpack filled with water and snacks for the hike!

Related Link: [Date Idea: Get Close with Nature](#)

5. Olympic National Park (Washington): Have you ever put up a suspended tree tent? It's a tent that is almost like a hammock because it is positioned in the air tied to two trees. Olympic is the perfect place to do so and check it off your bucket list! This area offers more than just typical hiking; it has three completely different ecosystems, including a rainforest! Amazing.

6. Badlands National Park (South Dakota): This landscape offers dramatic scenery of rock formations. You and your partner can come across fossils as you hike through the variety of trails – Door Trail, Saddle Pass Trail, Castle Trail, Cliff Shelf Trail, Fossil Exhibit Trail, and more!

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7. Hot Springs National Park (Arkansas): Camping doesn't always necessarily have to be combined with hiking. This camping experience offers a natural spa treatment for you and your partner. The waterfront atmosphere makes for a romantic

natural experience! Anywhere you decide to travel will be amazing as you are experiencing nature with someone who means a lot to you, and not much can top that!

Which hiking or camping destination do you want to travel to for a date? Comment below!

Vacation Destinations: Where to See the Most Beautiful Springs in the U.S.



By [Karley Kemble](#)

If you're in need of a vacation, but want to go somewhere different, consider the wonders of hot springs! Hot springs are an awesome getaway because of their natural beauty and absolute luxury. Basically the best bathtubs out there, they are great for relaxing your muscles, upping your circulation, and clearing your mind. There are many different springs all over the country, so there are plenty of options for you! Grab your girlfriends or your partner, or just go by yourself! You deserve a [luxury vacation](#) and pampered getaway!

Pack your bags, babe! These hot springs make the most perfect [vacation destinations!](#)

1. Lava Hot Springs, Idaho: You can visit Lava Hot Springs

almost any time of year, as it is open 364 days out of the year. The water of Lava Hot Springs is usually between 102° to 112°, perfect for any visit. The natural mineral water will restore your soul and make you feel rejuvenated! While you visit, take a look at the Sunken Gardens for a more dry vacation and admire the beautiful gardens and rock formations.

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2. Hot Springs State Park, Wyoming: Hot Springs State Park is an all-in-one vacation destination! Obviously, the main attraction are the Hot Springs themselves. The water's kept at a comfortable 104° year-round, and over 8,000 gallons a day circulate the refreshing and beautiful basins. Other noteworthy must-sees include their Swinging Bridge, Rainbow Terrace formations (a result from hot springs water, algae and plankton) and their plentiful Bison Herds!

Related Link: [Vacation Destinations: 5 Places to Visit on the West Coast](#)

3. Franklin Hot Springs, California: California's Central Coast is the best-kept secret! Just a little bit north from the L.A. area, you'll find tons of natural beauty. Cue Franklin Hot Springs. The price point is very affordable and you can enjoy all the on-site amenities, such as fishing and boating. There are a few other hot springs in the area, so hit them all when you go for a visit!

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4. Fanning Springs State Park, Florida: This spring promises clear, cool water to all those who visit! Take a dip in the springs, or snorkel and swim if that's more your style. Whatever the case, cabins are available to rent on-site, so you can stay as long as you'd like. Looks like it's time to cash in those vacation days!

5. Blackstone Hot Springs, New Mexico: New Mexico may not be the first vacation destination that pops into your head, but you won't be sorry if you visit Blackstone Hot Springs. Blackstone offers luxury lodging: newly remodeled for the ultimate pampering experience! Whether you enjoy basking in the sun or hiding in the shade, there are plenty of ways to sit back and relax. They take guests and walk-ins, so it's perfect for any travel plans.

Have a favorite hot spring? Share it with us! We'd love to hear about it.

Travel Destinations: Top 5 U.S. Spots for Spring Flowers



 By [Rachel Sparks](#)

Spring is an exciting time of revival and rebirth. Our New Year's resolutions are underway and our workout routines are finally showing results. We can shed those chunky knit sweaters and go on road trips with the windows down. It's a time to discover our own personal beauty, but it's also a time when nature's beauty rivals anything we can create ourselves. These [travel destinations](#) make for a perfect [romantic getaway](#) or a [date night](#)!

These top 5 places in the U.S. should be at the top of your travel

destinations list to see colorful buds this spring!

1. Washington, DC.: Have you ever heard of DC.'s Cherry Blossom Festival? If you haven't, this needs to be added to your US travel bucket list. The U.S.'s version of the traditional Japanese cherry blossom festival is a valiant rival. Starting as early as March 15, though traditionally early April, the district transforms into a pastel pink wonderland. The best places to see the blossoms: the shoreline of the East Potomac Park near the Tidal Basin. Beware, millions of tourists come to see this amazing sight.

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2. Mount Rainier National Park, WA: With it's plunging valleys and stark white-topped mountains, any bloom looks mystical against this dramatic backdrop. The entire national park ranges thousands of acres, but the two best places to see blooms are Sunrise and Paradise visitor centers for majestic meadows of dancing blooms. The park has trails specific to wildflower hunts. Can't wait to get started? The national park has a Flickr group dedicated to their wildflowers.

3. Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn, NY: Spanning 52-acres both indoor and outdoor, this massive botanic garden is rated one of the top five botanic gardens in the U.S. Seasonal exhibitions feature global wildlife, such as their Out of Africa special this year. What makes them special: their cherry blossoms are part of a traditionally staged Japanese garden. Walk over bridges and past soaring pagodas to feel like you've stepped into another world. In addition to cherry blossoms, magnolia's creamy petals and lilac's varying soft shades show a wide variety of the beauty of nature. At \$15 a ticket, it's a cheap weekend [date idea!](#)

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4. Dallas, TX: Get to Texas before the heat hits. Dallas hosts a six week long flower festival featuring tulips, daffodils, Dutch Irish, and hyacinth. Globally themed in 2018, the Dallas Arboretum will focus on a different country each week and include festivities specific to each culture along with its normal floral-themed festivities.

5. The Biltmore, Asheville, NC: Never heard of this gem? You're not alone. The Biltmore is the largest manor in the United States, owned and operated by the Vanderbilt family. In its prime, it took over 600 people to keep the manor fully operational. Even during winter when the gardens are nothing but dried twigs, the estate is worth visiting. If you come in spring, the gardens in full colorful bloom. With a fully functional farm, an inn, multiple five-star restaurants, it's well worth a weekend trip.

Where do you dream of visiting in the U.S. for spring flowers? Share you travel dreams below!

Celebrity Travel: Top 5 European Hotspots



 By [Jessica Gomez](#)

Oh Europe, how beautiful is thee! Europe is definitely a great place to vacation, and it's one of the areas at the top of the list for celebrity travel. It has a rich history, and it's

full of culture. Europe is a large area with countless stunning spots, so limiting them to five is not an easy task. That said, here are five “hot” [vacation destinations](#) in various European countries that your favorite celebs routinely enjoy!

And the 5 top European hotspots (in no particular order) for [celebrity vacations](#) go to... *drum roll, please*:

1. Venice, Italy: This is one of the most romantic places in Europe, and it's very popular with tourists as a result. The beautiful art and architecture here are big reasons for the heavy tourism as well. Take a ride on a gondola (long wooden boats) through the Great Canal, visit the major landmarks, eat the delicious chibo (food) at your pick of numerous cute cafes and elegant restaurants – the list goes on! Johnny Depp, [Brad Pitt](#), and [Kristen Stewart](#) are some of the many celebrities who have been spotted vacationing here! [George Clooney](#) and his wife Aina had their [celebrity wedding](#) here and then came back for their third wedding anniversary, according to [us.hellomagazine.com](#)!

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2. Ibiza, Spain: Party central! This island is known for the around-the-clock socializing and astonishing performances. Hit the beaches and the night clubs! Fun awaits you on this paradise island. Some of your night life loving celebs that have had their fair share of good times here are [Justin Bieber](#), [Kim Kardashian](#), Orlando Bloom, and Kate Moss! However, Bieber and Bloom may have had too much fun, as they shared some hostile moments there as well. Four years ago, the two hunks got into an altercation in Ibiza where Bloom allegedly

swung at Bieber, according to [People.com](#).

3. The Algarve, Portugal: Sweet, sweet paradise! Clear waters, green nature, and a strong sun – why are we not there right now? This destination is considered one of the most beautiful in Europe, as it's one of the most developed regions in Portugal. Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton enjoyed their honeymoon there – and we're picturing ours there, too!

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4. Paris, France: Known as the City of Lights, Paris is a big tourist spot! The romantic city is home to one of the most famous landmarks in history: the Eiffel Tower. There are various cafes and restaurants at which to eat and enjoy wine, too. And, of course, there are numerous museums, monuments, and cathedrals to see. Robin Thicke has been seen “touring it” up with his girlfriend April Love Geary.

5. Mykonos, Greece: Celebrities really do love to come here! Tons have visited: [Leonardo DiCaprio](#), Mariah Carey, [Ariana Grande](#), and Paris Hilton – making this a celebrity hotspot for sure. It's a nice, relaxing vacation spot away from it all. This Greek island provides delicious Mediterranean cuisine near breathtaking waves. Celebrities like Tom Hanks and [Tom Cruise](#) own houses here!

What are some places in these celebrity destinations you've been to or dream of going to? Comment below!

Popular Vacation Spots: 7

Places to Make the Most of Holiday Break



By [Karley Kemble](#)

With many winter holidays around the corner, you're bound to have some time off. Sure, you have your normal holiday traditions, but maybe you feel like changing it up this year. Winter is a wonderful time to [travel](#) because there are so many places decked out for the holidays!

If you're feeling adventurous and have been bitten by the travel bug, Cupid has some ideas of where you can go to make the most of your holiday season!

1. Christmas Town, USA: The town of McAdenville in North Carolina transforms into a quaint little Christmas mecca during the month of December – straight out of a Hallmark movie! The city itself is decked out with over 50,000 lights, not to mention that basically every house in the city limits is decorated as well! This is a must-visit.

2. Vienna, Austria: Anywhere in Europe is definitely an amazing holiday getaway, let's be real. Vienna is known for its quaint holiday markets, filled with delicious foods and gifts galore! There are tons of lights and displays around the city. Advent concerts are also regular holiday events, so look out for those, too.

3. New York, New York: A true and iconic American classic, a

visit to New York during the holidays is something everybody should see at least once in their lifetime. The iconic Rockefeller Center tree is truly breathtaking, and most store windows are lavishly decorated for the holidays! Also, if you love ice skating, get over to Bryant Park Winter Village and check out their iconic holiday rink. It's truly something marvelous.

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4. Boulder, Colorado: If you're dreaming of a white Christmas, look no further than Boulder. In all honesty, you can go *anywhere* in Colorado during the holidays and it's guaranteed to be beautiful. Plus, Boulder is famed for its lavish resorts and picture-perfect ski slopes – so if that's up your alley, you should book a flight ASAP!

5. Copenhagen, Denmark: There are many places to visit in Denmark, but one you absolutely have to check out is Tivoli Gardens. Beautiful throughout other seasons, the gardens transform into a holiday oasis with festive lights and decorations! Another noteworthy location is Kronprinsensgade street – known for its “blanket” of Christmas lights that hang above the buildings.

6. Nuremberg, Germany: Get yourself in the holiday spirit with some Nuremberg gingerbread and take a stagecoach tour around town. Germany is a perfect holiday destination that will surely amaze you. Shop around for unique and magnificent ornaments to bring home for all your loved ones, or stop by the iconic Children's Christmas Market and check out the merry-go-round!

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7. Disneyland or Disneyworld: There's something about visiting the Disney Parks during the holiday season that is so timeless. Disney really works their magic and decks out their parks – there is no nook or cranny left undecorated. There are

also special seasonal events and shows that are totally worth checking out, and yummy holiday themed concessions. Definitely check out any of the resorts for a happy holiday getaway – after all, these parks are called some of the happiest places on earth for a reason!

Where are your favorite places to go during the holidays for a winter getaway? Share below!

Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Getaway Spots on the East Coast



 By [Karley Kemble](#)

Everyone deserves a getaway once in a while! Sure, stay-cations are a great way to unwind, but sometimes it's best to leave your little comfort bubble and explore! The East Coast is the ultimate vacation destination, well known for amazing beaches and five-star views. You really can't go wrong with a visit to any of the East Coast states.

Whether you're due for a quick weekend trip, a longer excursion, or a [romantic getaway](#), consider some of these luxurious East Coast

Locations:

1. Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

Probably the most timeless East Coast destination, Martha's Vineyard is a very popular summer getaway for celebrities and regular folks alike. There are lots of things to do here: you can kick back on the beach, stroll around the beautiful Mytoi Japanese Garden, or even ride the Flying Horses – the world's oldest carousel. Did we forget to mention that the summer weather is basically perfect? You'll rarely ever see temperatures that top 90 degrees!

2. The Hamptons, New York

Live the Kardashian life you've always dreamed about, and take a trip to The Hamptons! No matter where you stay, you will be absolutely delighted by your surroundings. Stay at a beachfront hotel or the famous Greek Revival Inn and take in the breathtaking views. Check out Jackson Pollock's home studio, eat some lobster rolls, and snap some pics of the Montauk Point Lighthouse you've seen all over Instagram. What are you waiting for? Start planning now!

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3. Cape May, New Jersey

Did you know Cape May is one of the oldest vacation destinations in the U.S.? If that's not enough proof of its excellence, perhaps some of the following details will pique your interest. You will be wowed by the lavish Victorian houses and extensive year-round activities. Do a little wine tasting, treat yourself to a spa day at the many resorts, or even take a cute trolley tour around town (all super fun [date night](#) ideas!). No matter what time of year that you plan your getaway, you'll surely find something to do.

4. Newport, Rhode Island

Not to be confused with its namesake in California, Newport in Rhode Island is a perfect location for an East Coast getaway. Another year-round getaway, Newport is home to the Breakers, one of the most well-known cottages (read: mansions) in the East U.S.. The best part? It's open for tours, so you can plan all of your future house goals! You'll also want to check out the Ocean Drive boat tours for one-of-a-kind views of the Atlantic coast. Give it a go!

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5. Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Chapel Hill has definitely mastered the small-town charm. The ever-famous Franklin Street is well-known for its stores, restaurants, and quaint coffee shops. It'll also be in your best interest to take a trip over to the Coker Arboretum and soak up all of the beautifully maintained gardens. If you're into sports, Chapel Hill is the mecca of all things basketball – they even have a whole museum dedicated to Carolina's team!

Where are your go-to places on the East Coast? Share your favorites below!

Travel Destinations: Top 5 Vacation Spots to Spend New Years

✖ By [Ashleigh Underwood](#)

Ring in the New Year has is one of the greatest celebrations of the year. Countries around the world participate in events like parades, dancing, fireworks, and street parties. While each travel destination have similar celebratory roots, they all have cultural twists that make them unique. While New Yorkers stand in the street and count down until the ball drops, those in St. Petersburg watch fireworks and send paper lanterns into the sky. Whether you like to party until dawn or enjoy a relaxing night in, there is a vacation destination for you!

Dying to be somewhere different for the New Year this year? Here a few travel destinations perfect for celebrating this special occasion.

1. Valparaiso, Chile: If your year hasn't been the best, or you are feeling down and need a little extra luck in your life, Valparaiso is where you need to be. While partaking in traditional activities like large feasts, parties and fireworks, Chileans also celebrate in an unusual way. Each year, the people of Valparaiso, Chile attempt to bring in good luck for the New Year with a few different traditions that are extremely important in their celebrating. Firstly, they eat lentils, and 12 grapes. The lentils are eaten at midnight to ensure success and well being in the coming year. The 12 grapes are symbolic of each strike of the bell at midnight and are meant to fulfill all wishes and projects for the New Year. Their other classic tradition is donning yellow underwear throughout the festivities. The color represents energy and wearing it allows you to attract a happy and hopeful spirit. So, if you are needed some extra luck and good fortune in your

life, while also enjoying a classic New Year's Eve, head on over to Chile.

2. Reykjavik, Iceland: This small Icelandic town is sure to blow away your expectations of how a New Year's party should be. The people who live in Reykjavik take their celebrations to a whole new level expanding the event across many cities and goes all night long. Not only can you take part in their insane nightlife, but you can also experience their unique cultural traditions. Each year, the citizens of Iceland participate in community bonfires to burn away the troubles of the past year. Then, they get to enjoy the firework spectacle that spans across their entire coast. After drinking away the night, they continue on the next morning with hangover curing meals. If you're a diehard partier, Iceland is the place for you.

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3. Bratislava, Slovakia: In Bratislava, they are all about noise. This city offers a very casual, yet uplifting environment that is meant to keep you in the holiday spirit all night long. The town hosts thousands of people from all over the world in their streets each New Year, bringing them in with their many concerts. Bratislava is divided into sections, allowing one part for concerts and another for partying. The concert sections has several types of music going all throughout the day, including gypsy, folk, and disco. The other section, meant for partying, allows other to be more social. There is ice skating, restaurants, bars, and a large screen prompter to watch the celebration so you will be sure to see everything. At the start of the New Year, a fantastic fireworks show is displayed over the Danube River and people cheering and spinning their rehtacka. Participate in this tradition, and you are sure to rid yourself of any negative energy and start your New Year fresh.

4. Bahamas: While the Bahamas may make you think of a quiet, beach getaway, on New Year's Eve they are anything but. Choose any resort to stay at and they will be sure to offer some type of activity that will make you feel at home. However, if you dare to venture off with the locals, your time will be much more exciting. The people in the Bahamas celebrate the coming year with music, masks, street performers, costumes, and parades. These festivities are part of the Junkanoo Celebration that locals hold very dear to their hearts, as it is a long standing tradition. It begins with a cultural celebration, welcoming people of all ages and genders to participate. This special procession is lead to a final party destination where everyone is welcomed to stay up all night and bask in the glory that is the Bahamian culture.

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5. Sydney, Australia: If you are looking to party in a huge way, Sydney is where you need to go. Here, they try and step up their game knowing that so many people will be watching. With more than 1 million people gathered around the waterfront, and a billion watching on T.V, the celebration lasts all day and goes out with a bang (literally). Throughout the day, there is an air show, a water performance, multiple fireworks shows, and a parade. This destination is perfect for the family, or a party with your friends. So, be one of the first to live it up in the New Year and check out Sydney!

Where is your favorite place to spend New Year's? Comment below!

Vacation Destinations: Perfect Places to Relax



 By [Ashleigh Underwood](#)

With the craziness that is life, everyone needs a relaxing getaway. You spend your time working day in and day out at home, at the office, and even your social life can feel taxing. Why not treat yourself and take a week off? Take a trip to clear your head, and you will come back to reality happier and ready for whatever comes your way. These vacation destinations are the perfect places to relax and de-stress. You are guaranteed to have the time of your life and leave every worry behind.

If you're ready to get away and have the most relaxing time of your life, check out these perfect vacation destinations:

1. Nantucket: Located off Cape Cod, this tiny island is the prime place for a week away. The island is surrounded by natural beauty, and gorgeous town fronts, perfect for spending a quiet time by yourself. The cobblestone streets are great for biking around town and taking stunning pictures during the day and afterwards you can head to the beach and soak up the sun. At night, their restaurants are the place to be. With many options to choose from, you are bound to have an exciting time.

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2. Newport: If you love sailing, this destination is the spot for you! With a harbor filled with yachts, and an annual regatta, boat lovers from all around flock to this Rhode Island getaway. Being that this town is surrounded by water, seafood is their specialty. Get yourself a bowl of clam chowder and spend the day taking in the gorgeous views of Newport.

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3. Martha's Vineyard: A popular island off Cape Cod, is a celebrity destination like no other. If your idea of relaxation is star searching for hours, Martha's Vineyard is a must. Celebrities like [Reese Witherspoon](#), Barack Obama, Bill Murray and Jake Gyllenhaal spend their vacation days unwinding on the beach and quaint towns. Another highlight to the Vineyard, is that the atmosphere is very laid back. While it does have a large population of celebrities, there is no need to dress yourself up. So pack your comfiest sandals and your best celebrity spy gear, and head on over to the Vineyard!

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4. Greenville: Greenville, South Carolina—yeah, that Greenville. As there are many cities called Greenville, this one city aims to stand out. With the town constantly growing, there is never a shortage of things to do. Bring the whole family and check out the Children's Museum and the Museum of Art. Or, tap in to your adventurous side and explore the many hiking trails they have available. Regardless of what you choose to do, Greenville will not disappoint.

5. Williamsburg: If you prefer history and rich culture over a tropical retreat, Williamsburg should be on the top of your list. This town is a monument to our founding fathers and an old English colony that will leave you speechless. While

wandering the streets of downtown Colonial Williamsburg you'll be completely immersed in the past. With old style buildings, monuments and even men dressed as if they were from that time, you will be convinced you took a time machine.

What are some of your top relaxation destinations? Comment below!

Travel Destinations: How to Plan the Ultimate Trip to Europe



 By [Melissa Lee](#)

If you're in desperate need of vacation, summertime is the best time to plan one! Although beach getaways are always fun, why not try something different this year? This summer, plan the ultimate trip to Europe, whether it be with your sweetheart, your best friends, or even your family. However, before you get too excited, be sure to have everything organized and planned out before you leave the country.

Planning on a trip to Europe? Cupid's got you covered with some travel tips!

1. Decide on destinations: Europe is a huge continent, so decide what parts you'd like to visit, and how long you plan

to stay in each place. Some popular spots include London, Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Venice, Rome, Berlin, Prague – the list can go on and on. So, before doing anything, make a list of the cities or countries you want to hit and how long you'll be there.

2. Plan each day: This may seem extremely tedious, but it'll definitely help keep things organized. Create an itinerary for each day that you're there. Since you'll be traveling throughout different countries and cities, it's important that you have a plan for every day, unless you decide to roam around and explore – which is also a ton of fun! For example, if you're spending three days in London, choose what sights you want to see and how you will split them up between the days you're there.

Related Link: [Celebrity Vacation Spot: Everything You Need to Know About Beaches Turks & Caicos](#)

3. Do your research: You don't have to plan out every single detail of your trip, but you should definitely research each destination and the popular sights. In addition to that, it's important to research and book hotels that you'll be staying in in each city. Make sure they have good reviews and you'll be in a safe environment!

4. Research flights: Decide whether you'd like to book roundtrip tickets or one-way flights, depending on your circumstances. If you'd like to have everything organized before leaving, it's probably best if you purchase roundtrip. On the other hand, if you think you'll be more spontaneous, one-way tickets may be the way to go. It's completely dependent on your plans and what you want to do.

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5. Figure out how to travel between cities: Since you're not going to be staying in one city, it's important that you research ways to travel between each destination. In many

cases, you can book tickets up to three months in advanced. There are also several different ways to travel in Europe, including train, bus, plane, or even driving.

What are some of your travel tips? Share them below.