Travel Tips: 6 Best Spots for Fall Foliage





By **Emily Green**

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

If you're looking for great places for fall foliage, look no further! Check out these <u>travel tips</u> on where to find the best fall foliage this season:

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

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

Related Link: Date Idea: Fall in Love with Falling Leaves

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

Related Link: Fashion Trend: Giving the Boot to Summer — Hello Fall!

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

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

- 4. The Adirondacks: Full of many forests with beautiful hiking trails, the Adirondacks is a wonderful place to take beautiful fall photos with your friends or significant other. Whether there for just a day or a weekend trip, there are numerous places to enjoy picturesque fall foliage you cannot find anywhere else.
- **5.** Bear Mountain, New York: This state park has some of the most beautiful fall foliage that's within a close distance to the city. Driving through the park, one can find the beautiful red tipped trees that will be sure to relax you and get ready for the rest of the fall season.
- 6. Planting Fields Arboretum: If you're looking for a great day trip to see fall foliage, the Planting Fields Arboretum in Nassau County, New York is the perfect place. A 400-acre state historical park with rolling hills, amazing gardens, nature walks and much more, the Planting Fields Arboretum is a great place to get into the fall season.

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

Travel Trend: Celebrate Halloween With a Special Trip





By **Emily Green**

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

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

Halloween doesn't have to be a holiday where you just sit at home. You deserve to head out on the town and have some fun!

Check out some of Cupid's favorite spots to celebrate Halloween:

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

Related Link: Date Idea: A Day with Your Pumpkin

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

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- 3. Salem, Massachusetts: The well-known setting of the historic Salem Witch Trials, this town has spookiness embedded into their history. While helping the townspeople and tourists understand the history of the Salem Witch Trials, the town also hosts an annual Halloween festival with many kid-friendly events like trick or treating and ghost tours.
- 4. Williamsburg, Virginia: Williamsburg takes part in the spooky festivities by hosting "A Haunting on DoG Street." A variety of ghost tours take place throughout Colonial Williamsburg, highlighting the history of the town while putting a haunting twist on the tale. Ghost tours not your thing? Don't worry! Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream event is right down the street and is full of fun rides, zombies, ghouls and other creatures that will be sure to give you a fright!

What are some other great vacation destinations to celebrate Halloween? Let us know in the comments below!

Travel Trend: 6 Wellness Vacations You Need to Take Right Now





By Emily Green

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

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

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

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

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

Related Link: <u>Travel Tips: Health Benefits of Luxury Travel</u>

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

acupuncturists.

- 4. The American Club, Kohler, Wisconsin: What is interesting about The American Club is that it was originally built for Kohler factory workers, but was transformed into a wellness resort in the 1980s. People who choose to stay at the resort can enjoy legendary water-inspired offerings, like the signature lavender rain therapy, which exfoliates and moisturizes the body.
- **5. Amanyara, Turks & Caicos:** Surrounded by parkland on all sides, surfing, snorkeling and wildlife eco-hikes are common activities for those who stay at Amanyara. Within the resort, there are plenty of activities meant for families like facials, shiatsus, and many more spa treatments.
- **6. Rosewood Phuket, Thailand:** Made up of 71 open villas and pavilions, this wellness resort is unlike any other. Guests can sign up for two-week wellness programs, from high-intensity boot camps to inner peace workshops.

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

Vacation Destinations: Celebrity Getaway Spots 2019





By **Emily Green**

Our favorite celebrities always seem to be living in the lap of luxury, taking every exotic or beautiful vacation under the sun. Scrolling through our social media accounts, we see every ounce of these <u>celebrity vacations</u>, and can only imagine going on a similar trip. Well, what's stopping you? These <u>vacation</u> <u>destinations</u> are open to everyone and anyone. All you have to do is book your ticket!

Celebrities seem to have the best vacations! What are some great vacations destinations that celebrities getaway to?

Whether it's your favorite Kardashian, a pro wrestler, rapper, etc, celebrities typically don't go small for their vacations. They deserve to treat themselves, and you do too! Here are some of Cupid's favorite vacations destinations celebrities getaway to:

1. Paris, France: Newly married couple Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner took a trip to the city of love shortly before their second wedding ceremony. The two of them shared a passionate kiss beneath the Eiffel Tower and soaked up every ounce of love the beautiful had to give before they shared their vows in a beautiful ceremony.

Related Link: Celebrity Couple Joe Jonas & Sophie Turner Kiss in Paris Before Second Wedding Ceremony

2. Costa Rica: Kourtney Kardashian and her ex Scott Disick were spotted on vacation with their kids on the beautiful beaches of Costa Rica. If you're looking for a place where you can enjoy the scenery, time with family and soak up the sun while you relax, Costa Rica is the place to be.

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- **3. Lake Powell:** If you're looking for a paradise inside of the US, Lake Powell is the place to be. Located on the border of Utah and Arizona, *Queer Eye* star Bobby Berk could only describe the lake as "paradise." Simplicity and beauty at its finest, it is a definite must-see on your vacation destination list.
- **4. Iceland:** Believe it or not, Iceland isn't all that icy! One of the most popular tourist spots is Iceland's Blue Lagoon, where people can sit back and relax in the crystal blue water. *Southern Charm* star Naomi Olindo recently took a trip to the Blue Lagoon and had the epitome of the picturesque vacation.

What are some other vacation destinations your favorite celebrities getaway to? 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 <u>travel destination</u> on your mind, but it has a lot to offer. One glance at the marvelous Pyramids of <u>Kourtney Kardashian's</u> 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 <u>travel advice</u>!

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 <u>travel tips</u> 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.

Related Link: Travel Tips: Visit the Grand Canyon

- **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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Locations

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.

Related Link: <u>Travel Tips: How to Find the Perfect Hostel</u>

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 <u>vacation</u> <u>destination</u>, 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.

Related Link: <u>Travel Tips: Top Five Romantic Spots in the Bluegrass State</u>

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.

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 <u>Les Ilets de la Plage</u> 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 <u>romantic getaway</u> 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 <u>celebrity vacation</u>.

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.

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- 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.

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- 9. Les Ilets de la Plage is a great choice for travelers who seek privacy, but also want the amenities of a resort hotel: There are plenty of posh hotels on the island, but if you chose St. Barths to escape to a bit of privacy and seclusion, you can't beat a private villa. Les Ilets has beach side and garden villas that offer the utmost in privacy with luxe accommodations and all the amenities you'd expect from a hotel. Our attractive one-, two-, and three-bedroom villas are perfect for a romantic couples' retreat, a girls' getaway, or a relaxing family holiday. In addition to gorgeous private beach access, there's a private pool with cabanas and sun deck. We also have full concierge services—fresh croissants delivered to your door each morning, lunch and dinner reservations, grocery shopping, even childcare is easily arranged for you. It's really the best of both worlds.
- 10: There is life away from the beach. No one would blame you if you never wanted to leave your comfortable spot next to the sea, soaking up sun, sippy fruity island drinks, and enjoying the incredible views. But if you do want a bit of activity and adventure to round out your day, there's plenty to do in St. Barths. The waters off St. Barths are ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving, and there are great spots for kitesurfing, bodyboarding, and all sorts of watersports. And if you like fishing, the Atlantic waters are filled with mahi mahi, bonito, wahoo, and marlin. Looking for a little retail therapy or some pampering? This is an island that draws the rich and

famous—the shopping and spa services are world class.

About Les Ilets de la Plage: Les Ilets de la Plage is a quiet, understated resort with 11 villas that are simple, but elegantly decorated and very comfortable. All villas have full kitchen facilities, air conditioning in the bedrooms, satellite TV, Wi-Fi throughout, a daily maid service and a daily delivery of fresh breads and pastries right to the door. It's the best of both worlds — the privacy of your own villa with hotel services, concierge and facilities on hand. The beach cabana by the central pool has complimentary coffee and tea available all morning. Guests love the little bit of community that the pool area offers, and guests often gather to sunbathe, chat, and even enjoy a cocktail or two in the evenings. Les Ilets is great for families too as some villas have multiple bedrooms and different configurations. The area itself is very quiet and while children will love the beach, there's also a huge variety of activities the resort offers. For more information, visit www.lesilets.com or email info@lesilets.com.

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 <u>celebrity</u> <u>vacation</u> this Independence Day.

Check out these <u>travel destinations</u> 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!

Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Must-See Places in Europe





By Rhodesia Williams

From sandy beaches to ancient ruins, there are so many vacation destinations to visit. Always remember, there are a million reasons why you shouldn't do something, but there are even more reasons why you should. Europe is filled with beautiful vacation spots. With different countries and cultures, you will come back with memories well worth the trips.

Whether you are going as a <u>romantic</u> <u>getaway</u> or just visiting some of Europe's <u>popular vacation spots</u>, here are Cupid's Top 5 Must-See Places in Europe.



1. Rome: Talk about history! Visiting Rome will have you thinking you are back in history class. Putting aside the freshly made pasta, there are so many amazing sites to see. From Vatican City, the home of the Catholic Church, to the ancient ruins, such as the Colosseum, you will be in awe. Rome is not only full of art, history and food, but it also has the romantic atmosphere to match. With everything you will get out of the trip, this is worth every penny.

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<u>Trip to Europe</u>



2. Paris: With its reputation of romance, Paris is another great place for a romantic getaway. With landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the love locks on the Pont des Arts bridge, this city is a place where you can be relaxed and move at your own pace. You also can't forget about the love of fashion that Paris is known for, as well as their exquisite restaurants.

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3. Athens: If you are interested in history, Athens may be the trip for you! After visiting the ancient ruins, you can visit a few of the 10 Wonders of the World. There are plenty of day trips or excursions, like to the Temple of Poseidon or to other neighboring cities. Don't worry; after your history lessons, there are many places you can go to relax. Greece has many beaches as well as a big party scene and nightlife

activity. To fuel up, don't forget to check out the amazing food. With plenty of cafes and restaurants, there is no way you will go hungry.



4. Dublin: Imagine waking up the breathtaking atmosphere of Ireland. With vivid green acres of grass, fresh air and clear blue skies how could you not enjoy yourself? There are all types of things to learn in Ireland. After visiting the Malahide Castle and Gardens, why not stop at the Guinness Storehouse! Dublin also has their own National Wax Museum as well as and Aquatic Cantre. Interested in the nightlife? Well, don't worry. The a country known for their love of beer, there are plenty of bars and clubs. There can't be a dull day in Dublin.



5. Dubrovnik: Sometimes you want to switch it up and go somewhere different and unique. Dubrovnik is a country-like town in Croatia. While this town is outside the capital, there

are still so many things to enjoy. With plenty of water activities offered, like kayaking and scuba diving, enjoying a nice hot day on the beach won't be an issue. Plus, there are a few museums and historical sites to visit. While it's always nice to learn something new, there are also so many bars and lounges to choose from when the sun goes down. Explore and enjoy beautiful Croatia, and you never know, this could be one of your favorites.

What are some other must-see places in Europe? Share your thoughts below.

Travel Destinations: Top 5 Castles To Visit In America





By <u>Jessica Gomez</u>

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 pleasantry around it. Castle in the Clouds has unique innovations inside like jigsaw floors, a self-cleaning oven, and a central-vacuuming system.

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- 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. <u>Biltmore Estate:</u> 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. <u>Bishop's Palace aka Gresham Castle:</u> 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!

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





By <u>Karley Kemble</u>

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 <u>luxury vacation</u> 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!

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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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Destinations

- 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.

Vacation Destinations: Romantic Staycations for a Mid-Week Valentine's Day





By Rachel Sparks

Those of us who are currently in a relationship want to have the most romantic date night with our loved one for Valentine's Day. From year to year, V-Day is on the weekend 43% of the time, leaving a whopping 57% chance that the romantic date night you were planning falls on a weekday night, killing the mood. So you may not be able to go out or have a romantic getaway, but these mid-week staycation date ideas are sure to keep the romance alive for your Valentine's Day celebrations.

Try these vacation destinations in your hometown for a romantic Valentine's Day staycation!

1. Sunset cruise: Okay, this only works if you're near water. Even a river or lake will do! Most cities host sunset cruises with dinner included. It'll cost about as much as a romantic dinner out at the three-star restaurant you've been eyeing,

with the added bonus of beautiful scenery.

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- 2. Hot air balloon: The good news is that anywhere with clear air is likely to have a hot air balloon ride available! If you and your partner are feeling daring, enjoying V-Day dinner in a basket for two, literally, is incredibly romantic. If either of you is scared of heights, get ready for full-blown snuggles. Our suggestion: bring a bottle of wine or two to calm the nerves (if you're 21 and up!). Even the bravest of people will have a hard time grasping the idea that only a balloon is keeping you separated from the ground.
- 3. Disposable camera: Smartphones have made us take photography for granted. It's a lot more fun to grab a Polaroid or disposable camera and have a goofy photo shoot around town. Because you won't be able to delete any pictures taken, it'll be challenging to pose yourselves just right. Plus, the anticipation of seeing the photos developed will keep you excited and help you relive the fun of your date!

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- 4. DIY spa escape: Make it a true staycation, and turn your home into an all-inclusive spa resort. Small touches in your bathroom, like white lines and pops of wood, recreate that spa environment. Don't forget to include candles, scents, luscious pillows, and soft music. Take turns giving each other a full body massage, mani-pedis, and masks. Even if your S.O. seems a bit apprehensive about the spoilage, tell them how rewarding it feels to be pampered, and how much you want to express your love.
- **5. Thrift shop photo shoot:** For a goofy and light-hearted date night, go to your local thrift shop and pick out outfits for each other. Put on a photo shoot, and end the night with a picnic or a home-cooked meal.

How have you kept the romance of Valentine's Day alive when it falls mid-week, staycation style? Share your date ideas below!

Travel Destinations: Top 5 Vacation Spots to Spend New Years





By Ashleigh Underwood

Ringing 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 mean 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 beings 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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<u>Trip to Europe</u>

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: 5 Places to Visit on the West Coast





By <u>Melissa Lee</u>

The West Coast is filled with tons of tourist attractions and sightseeing activities, not to mention some of the most gorgeous scenery in the entire country. When trying to plan your next vacation, why don't you take a trip over to western side of America, where you can road trip the entire coast in 21 hours? Take a break from leaving the country, expensive resorts, and beach getaways and head below to read about the best places to visit on the West Coast.

Check out these beautiful vacation destinations, all located on the West Coast of America!

1. Big Sur: Not only is this destination absolutely to-die

for, but the journey to get there is an adventure in its own. The drive to Big Sur has been named as one of the best drives in the country, complete with zig-zags that overlook the Pacific Ocean before finally reaching the remote views. With treehouses available to rent, hiking trails, and redwoods, what more could you want?

2. Crater Lake: Dubbed as the deepest lake in America, Crater Lake is also credited as one of the prettiest sights in the country. Open year-round, this South-Central Oregon spot offers a multitude of nature-based activities that are perfect for the outdoors lovers. Hiking, camping, and cliff-jumping are only a few of the highlights that Crater Lake is known for.

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- 3. Friday Harbor: If nature isn't your thing, try heading out to the Friday Harbor located in Washington. Hop on a cruise at the harbor, where you'll head to one of the world's premier yachting destinations, the San Juan Islands. Bicycles and go-karts are available to rent, along with delicious food and even whale watching!
- 4. Joshua Tree: Infamously known as one of the most magical places on the West Coast, Joshua Tree is a desert with an "anything goes" attitude. Although the air is dry and the temperature steadily rises throughout the day, this spot is a fantastic camping spot. Bars and restaurants are scattered along the desert, giving it the true western vibe its known for.

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5. Palm Springs: This destination may sound familiar to you since, that's right, it's home to the Coachella music festival. When the crazy festival isn't going on, Palm Springs

is a relaxing place for a weekend getaway. Complete with gorgeous scenery, this is the perfect place to head to if you're looking to take some time for yourself and enjoy a luxurious vacation.

Where are your favorite places to go to on the West Coast? Leave your thoughts below!

Vacation Destinations: Spring Travel Tips for Home and Abroad





This post was sponsored by Savvy Travelers.

By <u>Delaney Gilbride</u>

Whether people have been cooped up indoors while it snowed all winter or they were able to take the chilly temperatures with just a sweater, spring is a time of renewal. It's a time of the year when people want to break out of the routine they have been stuck in for months and get away. This spring, millions of people will be traveling domestically, as well as abroad. The difference in surviving and thriving on that trip has a lot to do with the planning and preparing before ever heading out the door.

"Once you plan wisely for a trip you know all the difference that it makes and you will forever want to continue with it," explains expert traveler Tina Aldatz, chief executive officer of travel wellness company Savvy Travelers. "Planning ahead means that you are more prepared to help keep yourself healthy and comfortable, no matter where you may be traveling to. That's always a good thing."

Improve traveling to your favorite vacations destinations this spring by checking out <u>Savvy</u> <u>Travelers</u> tips for traveling domestically and abroad:

- 1. When traveling internationally, inquire about vaccinations, and contact the local health department about a month before the trip. This way, they can determine if any special health measures should be taken or cautionary advice is needed.
- 2. Inquire with your insurance company about traveling to get the details you may need on using insurance during a vacation,

especially if you will be traveling outside the country.

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Beach

- 3. Take standard necessities with you, rather than trying to find them when you arrive. Items such as sunscreen, bug spray, toiletries and cleansing wipes are easy to pack and carry, and will bring comfort during travel and once reaching the destination.
- 4. Aim to pack light, rather than over pack. When you over pack it will become a burden to carry luggage around. Also, packing light gives you a little wiggle room for purchasing things on the trip to take home

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- 5. Travel prepared with cleansing wipes. You can go poolside with your designer wipes by your side or stash them in your beach bag. They will easily allow you to refresh a sweaty body with No Sweat wipes, get the chlorine or salty sea off with Take Offz, and remove the sand that got on your phone or on your sunglasses with In the Klear wipes.
- 6. Looking great is easier when you are prepared, even down to your fingernails. Chipped a nail on day three? Lift Offz to the rescue. They can be carried in your purse or bag and within seconds will remove the polish.

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- 7. Sometimes we need a vacation from our vacation because we packed so much in on our trip. But the worst thing is to have to use all your sick days after your fabulous vacation, so stay healthy this spring break with Klean Upz and Offz by your side.
- 8. Stay fresh and healthy when traveling by keeping

individually wrapped wipes on hand. They can be used for sweat, killing germs, freshening breath, or cleaning off things that seem a tad too dirty to touch. From wiping down airplane tray tables to hotel room remote controls, spending seconds to do that and removing germs can save days worth of being ill.

"We know what it's like to travel and need ways to help keep us comfortable and healthy," added Aldatz. "That's why we created our line of designer wipes. They are easy to carry, individually wrapped, and help make you ready for anything and everything that comes your way."

About Savvy Travelers

The Savvy Travelers collection of designer beauty wipes are curated for the sophisticated on-the-go travelista. Savvy Travelers keep ladies fresh and fabulous from head to toe, one swipe at a time, offering products in convenient kits and single-use packets that are disposable, eco-friendly and made in California! *No Water? No Problem!* Follow @Savvy_Travelers on social media and like us on Facebook.