

# Romantic Getaway: Destinations in South Africa



So, you've been to Bali, loved the Caribbean, and now you're searching for another exotic location to visit with your loved one. Why not tour South Africa? Enjoy breathtaking sunsets across African skies while you sip a crisp chardonnay on the balcony of your luxury hotel.

**There are so many romantic destinations in South Africa, and it's challenging to fit them all in in one trip. Plan your trip over**

# **two weeks and visit these fantastic parts of the country.**

## **Champagne Castle – The Drakensberg**

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

## **Chapmans Peak – Hout Bay**

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

## **The Wine Route – Western Cape**

This stretch of lush coastline between Gaansbaai and Knysna is home to a wide variety of indigenous flora and fauna. It's spectacular in the springtime after the first rains soak the earth. This region also hosts some of the world's most beautiful wine farms and luxurious 5-star hotels.

## **Cape Point – Cape Town**

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

## **The Golden Mile – Durban**

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

### **The Magaliesburg – Gauteng**

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

### **The Skeleton Coast – Namibia**

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

### **A Final Travel Tip**

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

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# **Travel Tips: Indulge in a Romantic Getaway in Tuscany**



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

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

### **Splurge on Accommodation**

Tuscany is an expensive place to take a holiday. And value for

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

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

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

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

This suggestion applies to almost every tourist to Tuscany. If you have a car, it gives you the flexibility to explore the best of the region. From the historical old towns to castles and vineyards, the region is best explored by car. Get online and research the quaint towns and villages and surprise your special someone with a serendipitous day trip. After leaving the city, expect almost deserted country lanes and undulating hills. Check out San Gimignano and Siena in Tuscany too.

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

Ideally, if you want to have a more romantic experience, it might be better to base yourself in one location. While it can be tempting to explore as much of the region as possible, this type of travel isn't consistent with romance. Base yourself in Florence and take day trips to some of the villages and towns

as suggested above. Or find a cosy spot to stay the night in one of the charismatic towns. If you do want to drive around and explore Tuscany to the fullest, come back again another time. You should be prioritising on fine-dining and experiences rather than sitting behind the wheel of a car.

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

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

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

When the region produces tens of thousands of bottles of wine each year, it presents the opportunity to become a connoisseur for the day. Head to the supermarket and you'll find familiar names as well as local brands lining the shelves. Grab a bottle and sip a glass or two in the early evening. Or, for a more hands-on experience, you can take a tour to one of the wineries. Options include visiting independently or joining a wine tasting tour. The second is better for obvious reasons. If you're spending two or three days in Florence, getting out of the city to try some of the local drink is a must. And when you find the bottle you like the most, bring a couple back to replicate the romance back home. The best places to visit from Florence include Biondi Santi, Salcheto and Antinori Chianti Classico.

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

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

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

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

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







By [Haley Lerner](#)

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

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

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

**2. Make a schedule:** Once you've figured out the details of your trip, make a flexible schedule with all the activities you want to do, places you want to see and restaurants you want to eat at. This way, you can make sure you have time to do everything you want to and make your trip less stressful, as you've got everything organized.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Product Review: Summer Vacation Essentials for the Whole Family**



By [Rachel](#)

## [Sparks](#)

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

# Product Review: Summer Travel Must-Haves for a Stress-Free Vacation for the Whole Family

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



Kwilt Shoebox Mini. Photo courtesy of [kwiltshoebox.com](http://kwiltshoebox.com)

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

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

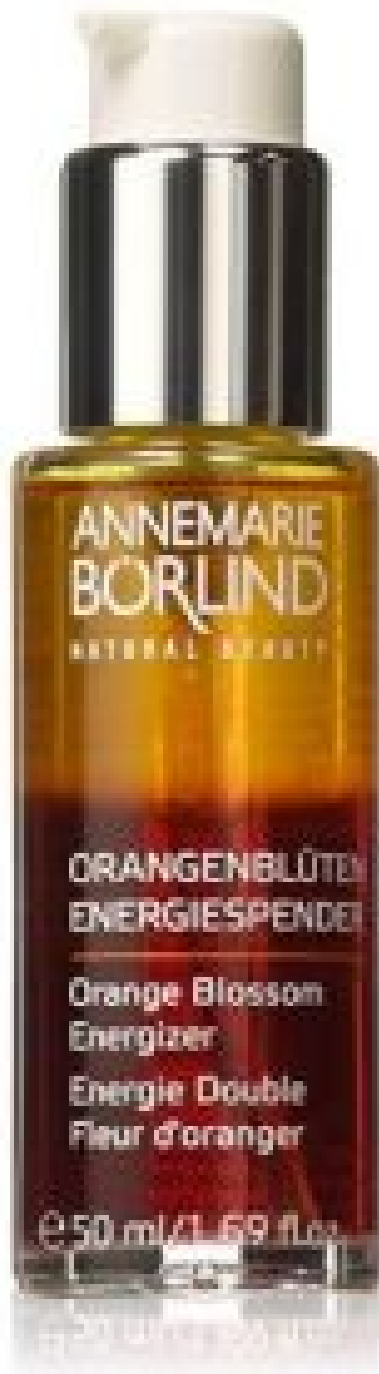
2. [BuddyPhones PLAY, \\$49.99](#)



BuddyPhones. Photo courtesy of  
[buddyphones.com](http://buddyphones.com)

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

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



Orange Blossom Energizer. Photo:  
Amazon.com

It doesn't matter if you're sitting on the beach tanning or getting whipped by the wind on roller coasters, your skin still pays the price. Summer vacations can do some damage, but this orange blossom energizer's formula uses ingredient to bring life back into your skin. The potent antioxidant orange blossom serum mixes with carrot oil, infused with vitamins B5,

C, and E to stimulate collagen production. Combine the Orange Blossom Energizer with Annemarie Borlind's other products for a glowing, fresh look.

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

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



My Drink Bomb. Photo courtesy of [mydrinkbomb.com](http://mydrinkbomb.com)

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

**Have your best summer vacation yet with these travel essentials!**

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

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# Product Review: Travel in Style with These Glam Bags!



By [Rachel](#)

[Sparks](#)

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

## Product Review: Summer Travel Bags



# for Stylish Vacations!

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



Flightline Travel Tote. Photo courtesy of [flightlinetravelllc.com](http://flightlinetravelllc.com)

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

## OMG Accessories Duffle, \$58



OMG Accessories Duffle. Photo courtesy of [omgaccessories.com](http://omgaccessories.com)

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

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

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

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



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

For those looking for an affordable way to vacation on the

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

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

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

**2. Fly into Saint Maarten for easy transportation to Saint Barths:** Unless you can charter your own plane, there are no direct flights to the island. And if you were to fly into Remy de Haenen airport in St. Jean, be prepared for a bit of a

thrill—the tiny runway (just 2,100 feet, the shortest in commercial aviation) is flanked by St. Jean Bay on one end and mountains on the other. You can fly in from San Juan, Antigua, Puerto Rico, and Guadeloupe. You can fly from St. Maarten but there are fewer flights operating this year due to the hurricane. St. Maarten does have the most options, however. If you pass up the hair-raising flight, you can take a 45-minute ferry ride or any one of a number of private charter boats.

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

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

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

**5. Low-key lunches are a true highlight of Saint Barths:** One of the highlights of a St. Barths holiday is spending long, lazy, rosé-fueled lunches with your feet in the sand. Shellona on Shell Beach has a rustic deserted-island ambiance and comfy



loungers clustered beneath palapas—a wonderful way to while away an afternoon. La Langouste on Flamands Beach has lovely lobster (as you'd guess from the name)—choose your own from the tank and it's delivered perfectly grilled to your beachside table. It's located in the pool courtyard of Hôtel Baie des Anges—cool off with a dip between courses!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**About *Les Ilets de la Plage*:** Les Ilets de la Plage is a quiet, understated resort with 11 villas that are simple, but elegantly decorated and very comfortable. All villas have full kitchen facilities, air conditioning in the bedrooms, satellite TV, Wi-Fi throughout, a daily maid service and a daily delivery of fresh breads and pastries right to the door. It's the best of both worlds – the privacy of your own villa with hotel services, concierge and facilities on hand. The



beach cabana by the central pool has complimentary coffee and tea available all morning. Guests love the little bit of community that the pool area offers, and guests often gather to sunbathe, chat, and even enjoy a cocktail or two in the evenings. Les Ilets is great for families too as some villas have multiple bedrooms and different configurations. The area itself is very quiet and while children will love the beach, there's also a huge variety of activities the resort offers. For more information, visit [www.lesilets.com](http://www.lesilets.com) or email [info@lesilets.com](mailto:info@lesilets.com).

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## Romantic Getaway: Travel in The Deep Blue Sea



[Gomez](#)

By [Jessica](#)

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!**

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

# Own 4th of July Adventure



By [Haley Lerner](#)

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

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

**1. New York City, NY:** While a trip to the Big Apple might not be like the typical dream beach vacation, it sure is a great

place to be on America's birthday. Go to Manhattan to catch the extravagant Macy's 4th of July Firework show over the East River. Try booking a cruise to watch the fireworks explode in front of the Statue of Liberty and the city skyline.

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

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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.

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

**5. Boston, MA:** Boston is a city full of Revolutionary War history and heritage. Check out Boston Harborfest in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, and take advantage of war reenactments, cruises, speeches, music and walking tours. You can visit Paul Revere's house and other historical war sites. The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is an amazing show which includes real cannon fire!



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

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# 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 [romantic getaway](#) or just visiting some of Europe's [popular vacation spots](#), 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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**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 Centre. 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.**

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## **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.

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

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!**

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## Best East Coast Beaches for Summer 2018







By [Carly](#)

[Horowitz](#)

The summer months are upon us, and that means it's beach time! Whether you live on the East Coast and are looking to try out some fabulous beaches near you or you are planning to travel to the East Coast, we have narrowed down the best beaches that you should visit.

**Ponder taking a swim at one of these [beautiful vacation spots](#) this summer!**

**1. The Hamptons, NY:** Multiple towns make up the Hamptons on Long Island. To name a few, there is Westhampton Beach, East Hampton, Southhampton, Montauk, and Sag Harbor. You may have heard of the Hamptons from multiple celebrities taking vacations there. Not only is it a great vacation spot with shopping opportunities and yummy restaurants, but the beaches are amazing as well. The best beaches to visit in the Hamptons are Cupsogue Beach at the end of Dune Road, Rogers Beach in Westhampton Beach, Tiana Beach in East Quogue, Road F Beach in Southhampton, and Wilborg Beach in East Hampton. You can

venture to the Hamptons for just one beach day or find a place to stay for a few days. The Hampton beaches make for the perfect destination to venture to with your honey for a [romantic getaway](#) or with your family.

**2. Cape May, NJ:** The vibe of Cape May is so nautical and historical and makes for such an enjoyable overall experience. You can visit Higbee Beach, Poverty Beach, or Sunset Beach. You would definitely enjoy visiting Cape May with your partner because you will both be able to enjoy the historical aspects of it, more so than children would. Spend the day at the beach and then have a wonderful [date night](#) at one of the cool restaurants nearby! Be sure to visit a winery while you are there as well.

**Related Link:** [Vacation Destinations: Where to See the Most Beautiful Springs in the U.S.](#)

**3. Block Island, RI:** Block Island is such an amazing destination because similarly to the spots mentioned above, there is so much to do in addition to the spectacular beaches that are available. Check out Cow Cove near Settlers' rock, Baby Beach, Surf Beach, Mansion Beach, and definitely swing by the Mohegan Bluffs. Block Island presents 17 miles of beaches so there are a lot to choose from. Block Island also has some historical aspects to it. If you don't wish to spend the entire day at the beach in the sand, half way through the day look into renting bikes and bike across the beautiful island.

**4. Martha's Vineyard, MA:** Martha's Vineyard offers beaches like Lucy Vincent Beach, Menemsha Hills, Lighthouse Beach, Bend in the Road Beach, and many more. The only way to get here is either by boat or air so that makes the destination even more special. There are many lighthouses, beaches, and farmlands. It is located south of Cape Cod. Be sure to indulge in some seafood while you are visiting.

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



## [West Coast](#)

**5. Kiawah Island, SC:** If you are looking to venture to yet another island but more down south this time, definitely dip your toes in the water at Kiawah Island. The beach stretches for 10 miles and it is pristinely clean. Also, if you like to golf, spend two days here: one at the beach and one taking advantage of the wonderful golfing that this island has to offer.

The cool thing about these east coast beaches is that each of them present a different atmosphere. Venture to see which one is the best for you and try to travel to even more that are not mentioned. There is so much to explore!

**Do you know of some other amazing east coast beaches? Comment below!**

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## **Not Feeling Up for Beaches? 5 Other Great Things to Do in Rio**





Millions of tourists come to Rio de Janeiro every year, and the majority of them seek the glorious sandy beaches of this city. However, what's to be done when the weather turns foul or you aren't in the mood for going to the beach? Luckily, as this city is a place of wonders, you'll find many great things to do in Rio that will fit anyone's taste.

## 5 Great Things to Do in Rio That Aren't Visiting Beaches

**1. Visiting Teatro Municipal:** Teatro Municipal is the grand theater of Rio de Janeiro. It's a building of spectacular beauty modeled after the Palais Garnier in Paris. This building is one of the must-see places in Rio, and not only from outside. The insides are as spectacular and guides will tell you dozens of fascinating stories that took place inside these gilded halls. Depending on how much time you have, you can go on a short guided tour during the day or a fantastic theater, ballet, or opera performance at night.

**2. Strolling through the Sitio Burle Marx:** Sitio Burle Marx is the residence of Roberto Burle Marx, one of the most notable

of Brasilia's sons. This landscape architect is a legend in his field, which you'll be able to see for yourself when exploring his estate. Despite the rather small size, this is one of the most beautiful gardens you'll find in the whole of Rio. Unlike his colleagues, Burle Marx wasn't captivated with the idea of making European-style gardens. Instead he focused on bringing out the beauty of local Brazilian plants. He is renowned as one of the main forces behind the conservation effort in the Amazon forests.

**3. Go on a guided walking tour:** One of the best things you can do to enjoy your trip to the fullest is to go on a [free walking tour in Rio](#). Exploring the city on your own won't be as enjoyable or educational as doing it with a knowledgeable guide. These professionals will help you discover the most notable attractions and share some peculiarities of the local culture. They will also ensure you stay safe and don't get lost while exploring Rio on foot.

**4. Visit Ilha de Paqueta:** Ilha de Paqueta is a small island located about an hour-long ferry ride from the city proper. Visiting it is one of the greatest things to do in Rio as this place will give you a chance to see a different face of Brazil. Unlike the hustle and bustle on the city, this island is quiet and has a wonderfully relaxing atmosphere. Using auto-transport on the island is forbidden, so the freshness of the air is nothing short of magical. Paqueta is a place where you can see some gorgeous colonial buildings, try fantastic food, and witness the beauty of nature. It's not only Brazilian wildlife you'll be able to find here. The island is also one of the few places on Earth where you can see baobabs.

**5. Explore Parque de Catacomb:** If you want to take a stroll through a rainforest and enjoy some spectacular views, Parque de Catacumba is the place to go. This park is neither the biggest nor the most interesting one in Rio. But it definitely stands out due to its natural simplicity. The wildlife part of it has seen little interference from men, and the view from

the Mirante do Sacopa lookout is one of the most incredible sights you'll see in Brazil. The park has plenty of activities to offer including rappelling, rock-climbing, a canopy walk and a zipline. Once you go down to the lake Lagoa, you'll be able to enjoy multiple treats from the local small kiosks. Overall, this park is for the days when you want to enjoy nature without the abundance of other tourists.

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## 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.

**Related Link:** [5 Places Your Favorite Stars Go On Their Celebrity Vacations](#)

**[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 of out of your stay.

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

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# Travel Tips: How to Prep for Travel During Allergy Season



By [Carly](#)

[Horowitz](#)

Allergy season is upon us! If you suffer from allergies, you know the struggle of leaving your house and having to worry about your throat beginning to itch, your eyes rapidly watering, and your nose dripping with each step you take. No one wants their vacation time to be halted just because of allergies. Luckily, we have power over allergies and are going to combat them! You don't have to reschedule your [romantic getaway](#) just because allergies are in the air.

## Don't let allergies terminate your

# trip! Here are some travel tips during allergy season:

**1. Refill any prescription medications:** If you take medication for your allergies, make sure you are stocked up for your trip- as you may not be able to retrieve them during [travel](#). Pick up any over-the-counter medications you may need before hand. Additionally, be sure to keep these medications in a bag that you will have handy during your travels. Don't pack them away in your suitcase that will be stored away on the plane. Make sure you have easy access so that when you need it, you can get it.

**2. Get immunizations:** When you are planning to travel, you should check with your doctor if they recommend getting any vaccinations before departing to that specific region. Also, consult with them about any travel restrictions they may foresee regarding traveling during allergy season.

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

**3. Pack wipes and tissues:** The necessities! Be sure to pack a bunch of disinfectant wipes and facial tissues for your travels. You don't want to be stuck with a runny nose on the train with no tissues available. You also want to be able to wipe down any surfaces that you may be near for a long period of time with a disinfectant wipe just to be safe.

**4. Drink a lot of water:** With all of the excitement of traveling, the idea of continuously hydrating may slip your mind. Pack water bottles or purchase some any change you get. Staying hydrated is very important during allergy season and just in general!

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

**5. Check the pollen report:** Be aware of the area you are traveling to and stay up to date on the weather and pollen report of that area. Additionally, if you are embarking on a road trip, try to refrain from driving with your windows open. Pack saline nasal spray too! That stuff does wonders.

**6. Stay clean:** Wash your hands, body, and hair any chance you can get while traveling in order to wash away any pollen that could get stuck on you. Stay safe and healthy this allergy season!

**How do you combat allergies? Comment below!**

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## **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.

**Related Link:** [Fitness Tips: 5 Couple Exercises That Are Worth 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!

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Romantic Getaways in the Northeast U.S.](#)

**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!**

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# **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.

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

**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!

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Cost-Efficient Tropical Vacation 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.**

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## **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.

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

**2. Mount Rainier National Park, WA:** With its 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](#)!

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Romantic Getaways in the Northeast U.S.](#)

**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 your travel dreams below!**

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## **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 Ama had their [celebrity wedding](#) here and then came back for their third wedding anniversary, according to [us.hellomagazine.com](#)!

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

**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!

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Vacation Spots to Spend New Years](#)

**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!

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## 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.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Plan a City Scavenger Hunt](#)

**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!

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Play All Day](#)

**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!**

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## **7 Vacation Destinations to Start Your New Year Off Right**







By [Rachel](#)

## [Sparks](#)

It's a new year, and with that comes the promises and hopes of what 2018 will bring. Sure, your new year may have started with major sleep-deprivation and a hangover, but it's never too late to dive into the excitement of a new beginning. The best cities around the world to celebrate the coming of the new year also have the longest celebration days afterwards. Whether it's a [romantic getaway](#) or you're traveling solo, where should you go to find that inspiration to kick start your goals and make you feel like a [celebrity on vacation](#)?

**These seven must-visit locations range from the Far East to right here in the US, and they're the best way to start your new year!**

**1. Edinburgh, Scotland:** The Scots get down for New Year's. Called Hogmanay, Edinburgh starts their four day celebration on the last day of the year, ending with the "Loony Book," a plunge into the freezing waters of River Forth clad in their



finery. There's dog sledding competitions, traditional food, DJ's, and a torchlight procession with thousands. Christmas may be high a high priority for the rest of Europe, but the Scots celebrate New Year's like no one else. There's no better people to start your year with.

**2. Reykjavik, Iceland:** Spending the turn of the year in arctic temperatures may not be at the top of your bucket list, but you should seriously reconsider. Imagine fireworks reflecting off of rolling, snow-covered hills with a backdrop of the shimmering Aurora Borealis. The people of Iceland love fireworks and have lax rules, bonfires are absolutely everywhere, and it's Halloween all over again with their troll and elven costumes. If you're worried what recovery next day in frigid temperatures is like, join the locals as they fend off hangovers with hotdogs and dips in their natural hot springs. Even if you miss the celebration day, recreate the traditions yourself!

**Related Link:** [Romantic Getaway: 8 Affordable Destinations to Escape the Cold](#)

**3. Vienna, Austria:** Classy galas, classical concerts, and the infamous Vienna Philharmonic performing New Year's Eve, there's nowhere better to start your new year with elegant style. The birth country of Mozart, there is an abundance of art appreciation in all its forms. The city starts celebrating early at two pm in Silvesterpfad, their town central. Mulled hot wine, toffee apples, and dinner cruises keep you warm and entertained. This city is a marvel to visit anytime of the year, but it's a sure way to start your year in style.

**4. St. Petersburg, Russia:** Dive into darker and older traditions. Russia celebrates Catholic Christmas, which means it ends January seventh. If you're visiting for New Year's or even days after, you're going to see a serene white landscape, domed cathedrals, and Father Frost, their version of Santa Claus. If you make it for their New Year's celebration, their

skies light up into a fantasy as thousands of paper lanterns are released.

**Related Link:** [Travel Destinations: How to Plan the Ultimate Trip to Europe](#)

**5. Hong Kong, China:** In homage to the United States's manner of celebrating New Year's, Hong Kong has a ball drop and resplendent fireworks with a dramatic, dragon-flying-across-the-night conclusion. Hong Kong has an abundance of shopping in dramatic malls or street markets, go visit their temples, try their traditional tea, or check out the natural wonders, such as Dragon's Back. Hong Kong is cultural and commercial, which means there's something for every traveller there.

**6. Cape Town, South Africa:** Cape Town has one of the most unique landmarks in the world: Table Mountain. Approximately two miles across and surrounded by mountains, Table Mountain is a destination for sight seeing and partying alike. With dangerous wildlife, gorgeous scenery, and glamorous hotels, you can get in touch with your adventurous side or relax on a ferry ride. It's the perfect place to challenge yourself to be a newer, better version of who you want to be.

**Related Link:** [5 Places Your Favorite Stars Go On Their Celebrity Vacations](#)

**7. Boston, USA:** If you're wanting to keep it local to the US, head to the East coast for great food, lots of history, more museums than you could ever see, and enough coffee to fill your swimming pool. Home to Harvard and MIT, Boston is notorious for its education, and with over 200 universities, there's never a shortage of intellectuals goofing off in the night life. Check out the Commons, the public park at the heart of the city, that turns into another park, and yet another. Even if you miss the New Year's celebration, there's no shortage of ways to entertain yourself and learn something new in Boston.

**Bonus: Disney World:** There's no better way to reignite your youthful fire than a vacation spent in Disney. During New Year's season, the parks stay open later, they have extra shows, and it's less busy. Get in touch with your inner child to bring some spring back into your life!

Where do you dream of going to inspire the new you for the new year? Share your dreams below!

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## Popular Vacation Spots: 7 Places to Make the Most of Holiday Break



[Kemble](#)

By [Karley](#)

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.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Take a Holiday from the Holidays](#)

**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!

**Related Link:** [Date Ideas: Holiday Couple Fun](#)

**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!**

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# 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!

**Related Link:** [5 Places Your Favorite Stars Go On Their Celebrity Vacations](#)

### **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!

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

#### **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!**

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# 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.

**Related Link:** [5 Places Your Favorite Stars Go On Their Celebrity Vacations](#)

**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!**

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## **Product Review: Keep Your Kids Happy and Comfortable With These Products**







*This post was sponsored by Revell, Purl Lamb, and BayB Brand*

By [Ashleigh Underwood](#)

We want what is best for our kids, and that means getting them the best products. When it comes to [fashion](#) and [travel](#) however, it can be tough to choose which items you and your child will love. You want them to be happy with and comfortable in whatever you choose, and you want to make sure the products are top notch.

**Items from Revell, Purl Lamb, and BayB Brand are sure to have you, and your kids, feeling thrilled.**

[Revell](#)

A struggle among many parents is finding a way to keep your child occupied during a trip. Without something to distract them, children can get fussy or even wander off. Well, with the model car kits from Revell, that fear is no longer an issue. With many kits to choose from, your child, aged 5+, can enjoy putting together a car from their favorite

movie, *Cars!* These unique cars are built with a kid friendly nut and screw connector system, and create working headlights, action sounds, changeable mouth and eye expressions. Starting at just \$24.99, you can pick up this awesome toy from Target, Meijer, Fred Meyer, Hobby Lobby or Amazon.



Photo: Courtesy of Revell.com

**Related Link:** [Product Review: Soften Up a Room with Lorena Canals New Rug Collection](#)

### [Purl Lamb](#)

If you're looking to dress your child in the comfiest, yet most stylish outfit you have ever seen, then look no further. Purl Lamb's newest collaboration with artist Matthew Langille is sure to have your child feeling as cozy as can be. With choices ranging from jumpers, to hoodies, and sweats, this collection offers many different unique designs including a crazy lamb print! The collection offers sizes 0-24, so you can keep your kids looking stylish and feeling fresh as they grow for a very long time.



Photo: Courtesy of purllamb.com

**Related Link:** [Parenting Tips: 5 Unique Ways to Have Fun in the Sun with Your Child](#)

### [BayB Brand](#)

The key to a hassle free travel is ensuring you child is safe and warm as you move around. An incredible item from BayB Brand is their Car Seat Canopy. Simply place this product over your car seat, and shelter your child from any outside influences. Let your baby sleep in peace and enjoy a nice dark atmosphere as you carry them from place to place. Not only does this brand offer the canopy, but also a matching blanket. Now, your baby can stay warm and cozy in their car seat, while snuggling up with their adorable Minky Dot Blanket. For \$19.99 each, you can ensure your childs warmth and protection during all your traveling ordeals.



Photo: Courtesy of [baybbrand.com](http://baybbrand.com)

**What do you think of these adorable products? Comment below!**