

Family Vacations

How to stay safe and get the most out of summer

Well, school is mostly out, the weather is warming up and the sun is staying out until well past 8:00 pm. It's safe to say that summer is finally here! With the change in weather brings family vacations. Here are some things you should know.

BY THE NUMBERS



Fraction of Americans who are planning to take a significant (minimum 50 miles away) family vacation over the next 12 months.



Number of dollars saved in gas by American drivers compared to this time last year.



Percentage of Americans who say these lower gas prices have inspired them and made it possible to take a road trip this year.



Fraction of Americans who say spending quality time as a family is the most important part of taking a family vacation.

WHERE IS EVERYBODY GOING?

So with more people taking vacations and trips than last year, what roads are Americans traveling? In a survey of people planning to travel in the next 12 months, here's what we found were their destinations and means of travel.



TRAVEL TIPS FROM



- 1 Map out a route in advance.** Allows you to make the most of your road trip.
- 2 Plan frequent stops.** Every 100 miles, or two hours, to stay alert, use the bathroom and stretch your legs.
- 3 Download the right apps.** Navigation apps like Waze or Google Maps, along with AAA's TripTik Travel Planner will get you to your destination and account for any changes in plan or route.
- 4 Go to a national park.** National Parks turn 100 this year. Parks like Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Great Smoky Mountains are waiving entrance fees April 16-24, August 25-28, September 24 and November 11.
- 5 Visit theme parks at the fringe of the season.** Theme parks in Orlando and Southern California get really busy during the peak season making it hard to see and do everything. Visit in early May or September for less traffic.
- 6 Use those strong dollars to see the world.** The dollar is at its strongest in a long time right now, making international travel on a budget easier. Don't put off the European vacation too long or you may end up paying more due to less favorable exchange rates.
- 7 Cruising.** Cruises are expected to grow in popularity by 1 million people this year. Meet with an experienced travel agent to find the perfect cruise for you and your family's vacation wants and needs.

GREAT TRAVEL APPS



Waze.

Navigation app that lets you report and see road hazards, slow traffic, detours and even speed traps. It sources map data from Google so you are sure to find your destination.



AAA TripTik Travel Planner.

Allows AAA members to find AAA Diamond rated hotels and restaurants. Also features gas prices and fun destinations along the way.



SkyScanner.

Searches multiple airlines to find the lowest airfare both internationally and domestically. Also gives you the ability to plug in flexible travel dates and destinations in case surrounding days or airports are less expensive.



SpotHero.

If you're planning to visit a city with limited parking, SpotHero is your friend. It lets you pay for parking on the app and park in a designated lot. If you need to refill, it's as simple as opening the app and adding more time.



WhereToGo.

Uses your location to find things to do, restaurants, retail stores, hotels and even professional services like accounting (if you need that).



AAA Mobile App.

Map a route, find the lowest gas prices and access exclusive AAA member discounts. Also allows you to request roadside assistance in the event that your trip hits a vehicle-related snag.

TRAVELING? HAVE YOUR POLICY REVIEWED

If you're going to be traveling, and especially for more than a week, we recommend having your insurance policy reviewed. It will help find areas that can be better covered in case of an emergency or unforeseen occurrence at home.

We can also provide advice on keeping your belongings safe at home while you are out globetrotting.

Contact us today for a free policy review and we'll make sure you're all set for your big trip!



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