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# Active Vacations: The Best Trips for Adventure Enthusiasts

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Sailing, Skiing and Surfing: Best Vacations for the Water Sports Enthusiast

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# Active Vacations: The Best Trips for Adventure Enthusiasts

## How to Enjoy the Best Places under the Sun

There are people who are fond of traveling. They like to go to places where they can recharge their souls, unwind, release the tension from work and simply enjoy what life has to offer.

And there are people who are more of the adventurous type, who would rather enjoy the day exploring the forest canopy in Costa Rica or discover the beauty of the wilderness of Siberia.

If you are more inclined toward active and adventurous travel, this report is for you. We will begin by listing a few precautions or safety measures you should be aware of if you plan on indulging your sense of adventure and traveling to unknown lands.

### **1. First of all, you should obviously know what type of travel adventure you are getting yourself into.**

Yes, the adrenalin rush of the unknown and uncertain can be a turn on, but that feeling quickly passes and, if you don't know what you are doing, you can be putting yourself at some risk if you don't do your homework and learn something about the place you will be traveling to.

### **2. Have a fixed set on your adventure travel destination. Don't pick some out of the way place that no one has ever heard of.**

As much as new and exotic places can be adventurous, it is still best to stick to the classical and typical locations. It is really risky to try areas that no one has dared to go to. Typically, if no one has gone there, there is usually a good reason why.

### **3. Consider your budget when planning your trip.**

Adventure traveling can be pretty expensive, especially when it entails going to several exotic places all bundled together in one great adventure package. So make sure that you shop around and compare prices before deciding on your trip.

Indeed, adventure travel can be one of the most exciting and gratifying types of travel, as long as you look upon it as a learning experience and do the proper preparation. As with all types of travel, your first priority should always be safety, and then, once you know that you have nothing to concern yourself with, you will find that plenty of fun, enjoyment and excitement follow in short order.

## **Sailing, Skiing and Surfing: Best Vacations for the Water Sports Enthusiast**

For many people an ideal vacation means a warm and comfortable climate, sandy beaches and an ocean shore nearby. Vacations are a great way to remove yourself from the routine of every day life and take that desperately needed break. For those who enjoy sailing, skiing and surfing, as well as a variety of other water sports, here are some number one hot spots for water sports enthusiasts.

Set your sails for adventure and prepare your body, mind and soul for paradise when you visit the **Island of St. Lucia**, a truly tropical island paradise, 27 miles long by 14 miles wide and a dream come true for sailors. The western coastline features exciting anchorages and adventures for explorers of every type. Sail the west coast up to Rodney Bay and enjoy the beach on Pigeon Island National park. At night there is a superb selection of attractive restaurants and bars for you to enjoy a fabulous meal and cocktail.

Then set sail to **Soufrière** and visit the Volcano, the Botanical Gardens, Diamond Falls, and the Mineral Baths. Then drop anchor at Anse Cochon, a magnificent deserted beach that was made just for snorkeling. Set your sights on the famous Pitons, where a romantic night under the stars awaits you. Sample the natural wonders of St. Lucia, enjoying snorkeling as it was meant to be at Anse Chastanet. In the afternoon enjoy the beach at the Jalousie Plantation Resort or continue your snorkeling adventure at the Coral Gardens.

Then return to the Marigot before dark. Dine at your choice of spectacular restaurants and enjoy the most dramatic view in the Caribbean.

Where the Atlantic's powerful breakers reach an accessible shore in the Caribbean, there you will find surfers. In Barbados, the "Soupbowl" at Bathsheba has attracted water sports enthusiasts from the world over. Champions of the sport who spend training vacations here and appreciate the uncrowded waves, warm water and friendly atmosphere. Bathsheba is famous for its fast walls and big thundering barrels.

For years locals and overseas surfers alike have enjoyed the surfing at the "Soup Bowl" in Bathsheba. This picturesque fishing village becomes a hive of activity in November, when the waves are at their best and the International Surfing Championship takes place. Surfers rent "bay houses" and mingle with the locals, enjoying the friendly laid back atmosphere.

St. Vincent also has good waves at Lagoon Bay as well as Shipping Bay on the Windward side, not a venue for the faint hearted, while Trinidad has a good surfing spot at Minister Bay on the east coast. From sunrise to sunset bodies on boards await the break and the Caribbean doesn't disappoint.

Water skiing at Ski Paradise, located in Acapulco, Mexico has been rated as the "best ski site in the world" by Water Ski Magazine. Whether you are a beginner or want to improve on your water skiing skills, you will have a great time. Ski Paradise is the

ultimate water ski and sports vacation, including great accommodations and instruction from celebrity guest coaches. If you would like to experience the greatest ski vacation of your life, then visit Ski Paradise, who also caters to golf, tennis, and sport fishing.

Acapulco is a city of over a million people with a great night life, distinguished beaches and the worlds most perfect climate. You will experience a magical week of great skiing, great instruction, friendly people, excellent accommodations and fabulous food. Even slalom addicts need to take a break from skiing every now and then. You can explore the Fuerte de San Diego, a landmark Spanish fort built in 1616. If you're in the mood for a little adventure, you can hire a taxi and have them drive you through the winding streets of the old town to show you the best and beautiful historic sites.

Although these are the top hot spots for water sports enthusiasts, that doesn't mean that there aren't more great places out there to go sailing, skiing or surfing. Whether you're on the East coast or West coast or anywhere in between, you can always find a nice affordable vacation to revel in water sports and simply have a great time.

### **Top 10 Winter Getaways**

Summer is typically the season that everyone thinks of when planning their vacations. But why not dare to be different and take a winter vacation getaway instead? If you are a skier, snowboarder, or just someone who enjoys the winter months, a winter vacation may be just what you have been looking for. There are plenty of spots around the world that make spectacular winter getaways.

1. Hershey. If you are traveling before or during the Christmas season, consider Hershey, Pennsylvania as your vacation destination. The home of Hershey's candy, Hershey Park becomes home to Christmas Candyland, where over one million Christmas lights are put on display. Christmas Candyland typically runs for a month prior to Christmas.
2. Sweden. Located in the small riverside village of Jukkasjarvi, Sweden, Sweden's Ice Hotel is famous worldwide for great winter vacations. The hotel is created each winter out of 10,000 tons of ice from the nearby river and 30,000 tons of snow. The hotel features the famous Absolut Ice Bar, a winter favorite for the 21+ crowd.
3. Yellowstone. During the winter the Yellowstone National Park, a popular summer destination in the United States, offers Lodging and Learning programs where guests of all ages can stay at Yellowstone and participate in educational lessons during the winter. These programs offer a great way for visitors of all ages to learn about the beautiful and fascinating Yellowstone Park.

4. Wisconsin Dells. This small Wisconsin town offers a great winter vacation at the Great Wolf Lodge, home of huge indoor water parks. Great Wolf Lodge is a popular destination for families. Visitors of Wisconsin Dells get the best of both worlds with summertime perpetually recreated indoors and snow falling outdoors. Wisconsin Dells is located near both Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin.

5. New England. One of the most historical areas in the United States, New England is where the country was founded. In addition to the number of historical sites throughout the six states that make up the region (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont), you will also find plenty to do in the winter months. Maine offers one of the nicest ski resorts in the country in Sugarloaf USA, or you can try the beautiful White Mountain area of New Hampshire where you will find a plethora of ski resorts and the historical Mount Washington, the highest peak in the Northeastern United States.

6. Orlando. If skiing is not really your thing and you are looking to get away from the snow for a few weeks then travel to Florida, one of the most frequented states in the US by vacationers each year. Walt Disney World offers discounted rates during specific periods of the winter months, considered the theme park's off-season. Not only will the parks and restaurants be less crowded than during summer or a school vacation week, but you will be able to enjoy the beautiful Florida weather during your stay.

7. Caribbean. Why not take a cruise during the winter months? Like Florida, a Caribbean cruise offers a change of pace from the snowy, cold winter months that you may be used to. Winter is typically a perfect time for a cruise because the weather in the Caribbean has calmed down. Summer is hurricane season, spelling trouble for cruises but winter is perfect for calm seas and a relaxing cruise.

8. Mont Tremblant. Located in the spectacular Laurentian Mountains of the Canadian province of Quebec, Mont Tremblant offers its visitors over 600 acres of land for skiing and snowboarding. Perhaps the best choice if you are looking to take to the slopes, keep in mind that the US dollar is worth more in Canada and can go further than it would on a vacation in the United States.

9. Alaska. If you are traveling with children, Alaska may be the perfect vacation choice for you. Offering everything from dog sledding, one of Alaska's most popular sports, to viewing the Northern lights, Alaska is one of the best winter vacation destinations. Although it is notorious for its cold, wintry weather, Alaska also holds a number of entertainment options that are likely to keep the whole family busy.

10. Lake Tahoe. For decades Lake Tahoe has been one of the top winter vacation destinations in the world. Located on the border of Nevada and California just west of Carson City, Nevada, you will find that Lake Tahoe has plenty of activities for everyone in the family. Lake Tahoe averages 360 inches of snow each year, making for a winter wonderland of fun on your winter vacation. There are a number of high quality resorts around picturesque Lake Tahoe and the Rocky Mountains make a fabulous backdrop for the perfect getaway.

## **Pony Up! Vacations for the Cowboy in All of Us**

There is a cowboy, or cowgirl, in all of us. Playing a cowboy on a ranch in the country can be the most rewarding vacation. Away from the city life, pollution and technology in general, you can step away from reality and fulfill a childhood dream. So, grab your cowboy hat and slip into some boots and pony up!

The Hartley Guest Ranch located in Northeastern New Mexico bordering the Canadian River is a family owned cowboy paradise with an operating cattle ranch of over 25,000 acres. There are mesas, canyons and rim rock with 200 miles of trails through dense forests of juniper, oak and ponderosa pine. The Hartley Ranch has an outstanding stock of thoroughbred and quarter horses. There are all day cattle round-ups to move cattle to different pastures and scenic rides on 200 miles of trail.

An orientation is given to all riders at the beginning to match you up to a suitable horse and feel out your riding ability. All rides are guided and vary in length with guests choosing how long they want to ride. Once qualified by a wrangler, there are cantering and loping rides available. There are also pack trips and over night camp outs. Guests can take part in gathering the cattle, separating cows from the calves and help with marking the calves in season. Branding is generally done from May to July. The guests are allowed to sit back and watch, or join in and help. They can flank, throw and hold down calves, brand and vaccinate. You can do as much of or as little as you like.

Enjoy the great fishing for Bass, Catfish and Perch. The well stocked ponds are close to the main lodge and are easy catches. Other parts of the ranch have more challenging fishing. You may hike on your own or have a guide with you to point out interesting sites such as dinosaur bones, ancient Indian sites and unusual geological formations. There are deer, wild turkey, bear, mountain lions, fish and coyotes. Raccoons are down at the creek and visit often. Just sitting underneath a tree in the beautiful New Mexico sun, taking in all the sounds of nature is what Hartley Guest Ranch is all about.

The Blue Mountain Cattle Drive north west of Cedar City, Utah in Beaver County is for anyone who wants to experience the West as it really is. This is the area that the famous outlaw Butch Cassidy came from. In fact there are descendants of the famous outlaw working this dude ranch. Participate in authentic cattle drive adventures, other local dude ranches, and horse back riding trips. Lodging includes meals, trail rides, cattle drives, camaraderie and ranch chores that will give you a real taste of the old west. Magnificent scenery with old-fashion hospitality and wildlife almost close enough to touch.

This fabulous dude ranch is less than a two hour drive from Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park. In just under four hours from the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and Lake Powell, this vacation is a real out door adventure. The following activities are available for you to enjoy; Horse back riding, campfire singing, cattle driving, western entertainment, cattle roping, wildlife viewing (elk, deer, antelope and wild horses) and Chuck Wagon dinners. This is really the ultimate experience!

Grapevine Canyon Ranch, Arizona dude and working cattle ranch, offers horseback riding vacations, pack trips and adventure horse treks, in the prettiest part of Arizona. The Dragoon Mountains, rich in western history as well as Indian history, were once the home of Apache Chief Cochise and infamous Geronimo, feuding cowboys and Indians, miners seeking riches in the towns of Pearce, Tombstone and Bisbee, all notorious names in the history of the Old West. Old Mexico and the Chiricahua National Monument are located nearby.

Experience how the West was once secluded and secure, remote and unspoiled. Step into history and enjoy one of the most spectacular and beautiful canyons in Arizona. Here you will experience vast distances where the air is crisp and clear and you can enjoy the warm summer nights under the full moon.

Long, lazy afternoons blend into dusky evenings at this Arizona cattle ranch. The constantly changing light along the canyon walls is found to be a beautiful sight. This ranch is situated in the high desert of southeast Arizona, an hour drive from Tucson, its located high in the mountains near the historic Cochise Stronghold. The terrain varies from wooded rolling hills to mountains, with plenty of birds and wildlife. Here you will find over seventy horses for all levels of experience, beautiful trails to hike, old Indian village sites and ghost towns to explore. Stay in the furnished cabins and suites, enjoy the pool, hot tub, game room, and book library.

### **The Grand Canyon: 10 Things to Know Before You Go**

The Grand Canyon is located in northwest Arizona and arguably the worlds most popular and natural tourist attraction. The massive Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and at its deepest point, is more than a mile from rim to river. Most of the Canyon lies within the Grand Canyon National Park and is managed by the National Park Service. It incorporates three geographically separated areas: the South Rim, the North Rim and the inner Canyon. As you plan your vacation to the Grand Canyon, be prepared for everything.

1. You must decide how you will get there. Will you drive across country as a family road trip or will you fly to save time and money? Taking in mind the rising gas prices across the nation, and decide which one will benefit you more, both physically and economically?
2. Self vs. Travel Agent. How much time do you have to properly research and plan a vacation? You must decide if you should find a travel agency to help plan out your vacation to the great wonders of the Grand Canyon. Travel agencies can save you both time and money, because planning the best vacations is what they do for a living.
3. Child friendly environments. Depending on the ages of your children, you need to know that your destination is suitable for children. With babies, find out if the hotel or

resort where you will be staying offers cribs or childcare during your visit. Is a Grand Canyon vacation the right choice for your children?

4. Pets care. Many people enjoy taking their pets along with them on vacation. If you do, make sure your hotel or resort allows pets on the premises. Also be sure some of your destinations are pet friendly too so you aren't leaving your pet locked up in a room all day while you are out having the time of your life. If you decide not to bring your pet, find a pet sitting service or boarding facilities with a good reputation. Most animal hospitals offer boarding, but if yours does not, then ask your veterinarian for a referral to a reputable pet care provider.

5. Protect your home. A visit to the Grand Canyon averages four to seven days. Those are days that you will be away from your home. Talk with your neighbors and ask them if they can keep an eye on your house while you are gone, or ask a family member or friend to check in on your house every now and then. You want to prevent your home from being targeted by burglars.

6. Pack appropriate clothing, such as: a bandanna or a hat (for sun and weather protection), cut off pants for hiking, gloves, jacket, pants (heavy duty), rain coat or poncho, shoes (suitable for hiking), socks (cotton or wool for hiking), sweat shirt or sweater.

7. First Aid Precautions. Accidents happen, when they do, you can be prepared by keeping a personal first aid kit at hand. What you should take with you to meet an emergency situation depends on your family, where you are going and how long you will be staying. The minimum items to be considered would be: Antiseptic, Ace bandage, Band-aids, Burn ointment, Chap stick, First aid tape, Foot blister pads/powder, Gauze compresses, salt tablets, sharp knife and sun tan lotion.

8. Miscellaneous items. Compass, maps, water, ear plugs, eye wash, fire starter, blanket, flashlight (with new batteries), waterproof matches, paper/pencil, sewing kit, antibacterial soap, sun glasses, toilet paper, moist wipes.

9. Sun screen. SPF 15 or higher. Protect yourself and your family from sun burns.

10. Toiletries. Laundry bag, mirror, sleep wear, sanitary supplies, shaving articles, soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, wash cloth.

Never carry all of your credit cards with you or a large amount of cash. This can lead to excessive spending, theft or simply losing it. When traveling, your best bet would be travel checks or a travelers' debit card, that will replace funds if lost or stolen. Losing all your money or having your funds stolen can end a great vacation in a heart beat. You should prepare yourself for anything, even if it requires over packing, and don't forget to have a safe trip.

## **The Great Outdoors: Best Campsites in the U.S.**

No summer is complete without a weekend in the Great Outdoors. Camping is a great way to get away from the everyday life and indulge oneself in a little adventure. To lay out beneath the stars, or in an RV, and bond with nature can be great therapy. Whether you choose to RV beside a lake, rent a cabin in the woods or pitch a tent, take time out for yourself and enjoy all nature has to offer you.

Camping can be enjoyed as an individual or as a family. Campsites are available almost everywhere and are usually not too far from home and are very affordable. Every state has its own selections of campsites to choose from, but if you are willing to travel for the best, here are the top five best campsites in the United States.

1. A.B.C. (America's Best Campground) in Branson, Missouri, the Live Entertainment Capitol of the World. A.B.C. offers 162 RV and tent campsites with electric, satellite T.V., and phone service hook ups. There is also a concrete patio, table and grill available at each site. Pets are welcome, as long they are kept on a leash and you clean after them. Camping Cabins and Deluxe Cabins are available complete with air conditioning, heat, T.V., bathroom, kitchenette, covered porches, picnic table, grill, and outdoor hydrant. No pets or smoking are allowed within the cabins. Branson offers plenty of attractions like amusement parks, dinner shows, and outlet malls and so much more all within a reasonable driving distance from camp.

2. Petit Jean State Park near Little Rock, Arkansas is the legendary first State Park in the U.S. This campsite features 127 campsites and 33 cabins. The park offers playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming, and hiking trails. Camping equipment is also available for rent. While you're there, walk along the Cedar Falls Trail and you will come across the majestic Cedar Falls' Water Fall and be amazed. Take your camera along for this one, there are so many beautiful sites and area attractions you might want to capture the moments so they may last a life time.

3. Montana de Oro (meaning "Mountain of Gold") State Park in Southern California is a beautiful place for camping on a beach. It's most popular for the ocean access, wide array of golden flowers, and hiking trails. A walk along the bluff reveals a steep drop off with a fantastic view of sea lion colonies. There are four locations available for hike-in only campers and you must bring your own supplies. There are no camp fires allowed and you must bring your own small grill and pack your own bottled water. At Montana de Oro, you will be truly "roughing it" so don't forget your hiking boots.

4. Angel Island State Park located in San Francisco Bay can be your own private island paradise. You are transported to the island by a ferry boat, where only a handful of campers and rangers pitch their tents for the night. At night while you breathe in the cool salty air, you can view the flamboyant lights of San Francisco and have a phenomenal view of the Golden Gate Bridge. There are nine campsites available, with a picnic table, running water, pit toilet and barbeque grill. There are trails to hike around the island where you can find shops, bicycle rentals and the Cove Café. Angel Island has a lot more shops and activities, if you have the hiking boots to walk the trails you can discover everything paradise has to offer.

5. Fort Welikit Family Campground is in South Dakota. Camping is near three large lakes and is less than an hour away from all the area attractions, such as, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Mountain, Custer State Park's Buffalo, caves and many golf courses. Fort Welikit offers horse camping with several major trails. RV hook up, tent area and cabins are also available. Pets are allowed anywhere but inside the cabin rentals. This campground also offers on site trailer rentals and propane sales.

The Travel Industry Association reports camping to be the number one outdoor activity in the United States and is enjoyed by citizens from all walks of life. Pack up your backpacks, load up the maps and grab a compass and prepare to create memories to last a lifetime.

### **The Affordable but Comfortable Tropical Honeymoon: Tip List**

- Schedule your departure day two days after the wedding to give you ample time for rest after the activities and the celebrations. If you must travel immediately, remember to leave in the middle of the day and not the early morning so you'll get a good night's sleep.
- Ask your travel Agent for Honeymoon Packages, these usually offer the best destinations for honeymooners, not to mention discounts and freebies.
- Never, ever overbook day trips, you're not just traveling, you're with your new Spouse, better save up some energy for the night's fireworks.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, ask about certain perks, events.
- In addition to the above, don't be afraid to request extra stuff, like a big bathtub, a double bed, or a romantic view.
- Don't forget to bring your marriage Certificate along with you, especially if the name of the bride is already under her husband's name.
- Pack your camera and lots of film; you won't want to miss anything. You might also want to pack a disposable underwater camera and extra batteries, these are absurdly pricey in tourist spots, and you wouldn't want to overspend.
- Mention to anyone, especially in the café or in the tour boat, that you're on your honeymoon, yes this may sound a bit embarrassing, but some restaurants give extras like free drinks or gifts for honeymooners. This also works for birthday celebrants.
- If you want an active honeymoon, research and prepare for water sports; the tropics are a great place to learn them, always remember to consult hubby before you try one though.

- Stock up on sun protection. The higher the SPF the better, as you'll probably be spending whole days out in the sun; you wouldn't want to get skin cancer after just two weeks of marriage.
- Some travel agencies include island hopping trips, these are great ways to explore, and enjoy. This is especially good because you'll get a change in scenery, and won't easily get bored, especially if you have an extended honeymoon.
- Even if your valuables are inside your hotel room, keep them under lock, and if you decide to bring them with you, always watch out for stray pickpockets.
- Bring with you a stock of candles and massage oils that you can place inside your hotel room for that romantic evening after touring and swimming

### **Safari Travel Tips**

Before stepping on that plane for a marvelous safari adventure, plan like there's no tomorrow. You will thank your self for being precautious when faced with untoward incidents.

Here are the important things you should consider when going on a safari travel:

#### **1. Remember that it is one challenging endeavor.**

Planning a safari can be one of the most exciting feats one can ever manage to make happen. It is not one of the generic travels, usual jetsetters indulge in. Though you are provided with a tour brochure and a tourist guide, it still is better to research on your own regarding the various itineraries.

#### **2. Best spots for safari should be spotted.**

The most suggested parts of Africa to enjoy safari include East and Central Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands.

#### **3. Prepare for the climate.**

It is a must to know the seasonal trends and how they will affect your travel. But also remember that the weather is fickle-minded so you can never really accurately predict the outcome of your travel if you will base it one the weather alone.

If you are going to visit East and Central Africa, long rains start early in April to early June. Short rains abound during late November to December.

Southern Africa has its rainy season from late November through mid-April for the safari

areas. However, during that time, it will be summer in Southern Cape.

When one prefers Indian and Ocean Islands he or she can expect the seasonal trend to be more like of that of Southern Africa. In these islands, summer rains last from November through April. Cyclones can also be experienced during those seasons. From May to October, the dry season occurs.

#### **4. Choose your activities.**

Among others, safari traveling offers these fun-filled activities:

- a. gorilla trekking
- b. sailing
- c. birdwatching
- d. participatory camping
- e. self driving

#### **5. Know what you can afford.**

When choosing a trip, budget constraints should never be overlooked. Decide on a price range that you can work on. To make your budgeting more effective consider the level of luxury of your safari travel, length of your trip, activities, accommodations preferences, meals and season.

#### **6. Determine your travel style.**

Do you prefer your safari to be more luxurious, moderate or rustic? Will you let kids tag along? Are you traveling with a group or will you be one bold, independent traveler? Will you travel by air or road? What about your guide and your vehicle?

Answering those questions will more or less improve your overview of your dream safari travel.

Have fun!

### **Call of the Wild: Best Safari Vacations**

Tanzania. Deep into the heart of Africa, lies the great plains of the Serengeti, rolling into the distance as far as the eye can see. This is where herds of animals run free in an untamed wilderness and predators hunt for their prey. Serengeti comes from the Masai word "Siringit" meaning "the place where the land runs on forever." The flat grassy plains which make up about a third of the park along with the savannahs, ensure that the area is jam-packed full with plains game.

The Serengeti is well known for the wildebeest migration. Every year two million animals

move clockwise around this 14,763 sq km ecosystem in search of grazing and water, followed closely by predators.

Spend your days and nights among the lions, elephants, cheetahs, impala, hyena and warthogs in a land abundant with wildlife. Sit besides a campfire, under an African sky lit brightly with millions of stars. Experience Africa, a world left unchanged by time. Explore the exotic, historic and most beautiful places in world. Enjoy astounding sunsets, mystifying landscapes and the hospitable, open-hearted people.

Come to Kenya and begin your own great adventure. Travel as an observer or become an active participant with boundless opportunities to observe natural wonders and exotic wildlife. Explore celebrated archaeological sites and important antiquities and enjoy serene waterways and magnificent architecture.

Kenya has been described as having everything that is beautiful in Africa, from the scenic immensity of the rolling savannas to the desert regions of the north, the glaciated peaks of Mount Kenya to the white coral beaches and the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. Special holidays of all kinds are also catered for- from Camel Safaris in Samburu land, through walking safaris for ornithologists, to mountaineering on snow-capped Mt. Kenya; and from golfing to big game fishing.

Visit the Maasai Mara, widely recognized as the finest reserve in the country, where thousands of Zebra and Wildebeest migrate to during the months of July and August, thus providing an endless banquet for the larger predators. Maasai Mara is an unforgettable spectacle for visitors.

Throughout the country, distinctive environments are home to diverse ethnic groups and an equally broad range of wildlife. In the North, home of the Samburu people, the waters attract a plentiful array of wildlife.

Kenya's coast offers tantalizing attractions. Lamu Island offers white sand beaches with archaeological sites that open a window on pre-colonial African history. While Malindi provides plenty of fishing, surfing and snorkeling.

Going on Safari doesn't necessarily mean that you have to rough it under canvas tents, you can choose from hotels, game lodges, tree hotels, and self-catering chalets in the most dramatic surroundings. All of these selections also offer amenities such as rest rooms, clean beds and fine dining. Fast modern roads link one natural wonder to another. Most parks and reserves are easily accessible for big game viewing. Enjoy a cosmopolitan meal and Kenyan beers and wines, which have competed with the worlds best in winning gold medals for excellence.

Transportation is available for hire, cars, motor coaches and luxury minibuses, from scheduled air services with the most sophisticated charter network outside of North America. One of the worlds most romantic train journeys runs between Nairobi and Mombasa. On arrival and departure, visitors are welcome to avail themselves of the World of Kenya large duty-free shops at the international airports. There are regular daily flights from Mombasa and Nairobi to most European capitals, with onward

connections to other parts of the world. Kenya overwhelms all who visit her. A holiday spent in Kenya is one of the most rewarding travel experiences of a lifetime.

East Africa is a great destination all year round. Each season has its advantages and each area has its best moments. If you have already decided to go on a safari, visit a travel agent specializing in safari vacations to plan an itinerary that will allow you to get the most out of your trip. You can benefit by having a travel agent custom design your vacation and find you the best deals on airfare, hotel accommodations and transportation, tour guides and more. Most importantly, you will have the peace of mind that your vacation will be planned out most efficiently and tailored to your needs.

### **So You Wanna See A Volcano?**

You have done the cruise to Alaska; you have accomplished the tandem freefall skydive in Gananoque, Ontario; you have scaled the face of the Matterhorn and gone trad climbing while the other members of the climbing party were still trying to find a way down; you have considered streetlugging, but found it too tame; you are now wondering: what else is there to do? The answer is surprisingly simple: visit a volcano! Actually, you do not have to be a daredevil to make a volcano your next vacation destination, and oftentimes whole families can be seen traversing the terrain in search for an unforgettable sight.

### **Visiting Stromboli**

Stromboli is a small island belonging to Italy. It is part of the famous Aeolian Islands, a group of volcanic islands located in the warmth of the sunny Mediterranean Sea. Despite Stromboli's still being a very active volcano, an enchanting small town has sprung up at its base, giving travelers the opportunity to stay overnight for a visit.

Guided tours to the top of Stromboli are offered to the thrill seeker while those who do not want to make the trip may wish to visit Sciara del Fuoco, located on the northwestern part of the island, where an active volcanic vent spews magma into the sea. For this adventure, too, guided tours are available.

While watching a continuous wisp of smoke emanating from the crater is not for the faint of heart, thrill seekers love this destination and will not walk away disappointed. The atmosphere surrounding a highly active volcano is unique, and this trip promises to be the adventure of a lifetime.

### **Visiting Santorini**

Santorini is one of the Greek islands. In close proximity are the islands of Thirasia and Apronisi, which once were a part of Santorini until a volcanic explosion in 1650 B.C.E. ripped the island apart. Today this island is a favored tourist destination.

Access to the top of the volcano may be gained via a gondola trip or a donkey ride. In addition to visiting this still moderately active volcano on Santorini, other points of interest include the famous black beaches of Kamari, a short boat ride away, and the various ongoing archaeological sites on and off Santorini.

This is a beautiful vacation spot the whole family can enjoy just as much as the active adventurer looking for a new thrill.

### **Visiting Halema'uma'u**

Halema'uma'u, a crater located at the summit of Kilauea on Hawaii's main island, is the supposed home of the volcano goddess Pele. Kilauea is a part of "Hawaii Volcanoes National Park", and allows for adventurers of all varieties to enjoy an unforgettable stay. Armchair travelers and seasoned hikers alike will enjoy the numerous outlook platforms as well as the more than 150 miles of trails, many of which are wheelchair accessible.

Biking enthusiasts will be able to take in the volcanic sites via the 11-mile Crater Rim Trail; this trail leads over blackened basalt rock that rivals the lunar landscape, only to be suddenly replaced with the glistening leaves of tropical rain forest flora.

This is a beautiful adventure spot that offers a variety of non-volcano activities that adventurers of all ages will enjoy.

### **Visiting Shiprock Peak**

Travelers who wish to avoid the sulfur fumes of active volcanoes will be heartened by a trip to Shiprock Peak, an extinct volcano located in New Mexico. Visitors will want to remember that the volcano is located on the Navajo Indian Reservation, and while it is accessible via a tribal road, permission to get closer must be obtained prior to continuing. Climbing of this mountain is not permitted.

While access beyond the base of Shiprock Peak is not permitted by law, it is an enthralling part of a tour of the Four Corners Area. In addition to the foregoing, alongside the rock is a small jeep trail, which will be a delight for the four-wheeling set.

In closing, whether you are a thrill seeking adventurer who has long left behind the ropes of mountain climbing for bigger and better thrills, or a seasoned armchair traveler who has been around the world and would like to see more, volcano travel is an exciting travel opportunity for the whole family!

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