

Where Are The Top Holiday Spots?

Let's be real here: vacations aren't cheap. They're expensive, you spend all year saving up for them, so when the time comes, it better be good. Damn good. Finding the [top holiday spots](#) doesn't have to be a difficult process, in fact, you probably already know where you're going to go, but finding the best ones that aren't going to disappoint you might prove to be a trickier feat. Holidays are fun, vacations are fun, so don't screw the pooch doing something stupid.

First, read a few reviews. Yes, even things like luxury hotels can be a huge letdown sometimes. That's why we have the internet, the world's greatest resource for all-things judgemental. Sites like Yelp or Trip Advisor are the greatest ways to find out if the hotel you're planning on staying at is really worth what you're paying. Sometimes your vacation might just be booked at the wrong time and, while you may think you're doing yourself a favor by paying a few extra bucks to get the best hotel, you could have just waited 1 more week and saved yourself a few hundred.

Here's the reality about review sites: they give you unbiased, real experiences from real people who weren't paid to stay there. They most likely didn't get a special rate and, much like you, probably spent a good portion of the year saving up some money to go there. If their vacation sucked, you'll know it, so make sure to take some time and read hotel reviews.

If you're a resort-goer, please remember one thing: all-inclusive isn't always a good thing. All-inclusive resorts are great for people planning holidays on a budget, but there's a reason why 5 star resorts typically don't offer all-inclusive options: good food ain't cheap. There are some all-inclusive resorts that do offer good food, and will probably help you get drunk off your ass, but unless you're in college, you probably aren't looking for this. Sandals is okay, I guess, but there is always so much more that you can enjoy in other places.

The few 5 star resorts that do offer all-inclusive are going to charge you an arm and a leg, so be aware of that. My best advice for something like this, do a quick tally of how much you expect to spend on food per day. Add that to your total resort bill and see if that all-inclusive option is really worth it. How much food are you really going to eat? And, really, how much shitty seafood and questionable desserts do you really want to have? I like spending my time away at the pool, not on the toilet hoping Jesus will come save me from the backdoor exorcism I'm currently administering.

Look for local events! So many hotels have special for local attractions or shows that really let you soak in local culture. Homegrown art is always the best, and smaller venues typically mean smaller pricetags. If you're staying in a bigger city like LA, you have the best of both worlds: you can find smaller local culture or experience the larger touristy-style events that they advertise. Your best resource for this is the hotel concierges. They'll be able to let you know what's happening in the area and what's worth checking out. If you're looking for the top holiday spot, make sure you can talk to the hotel staff. They're the people that will act as your guiding light through this whole process and are basically your best way to really have fun with your trip.

Check out the hotel's pictures. I should have added this earlier with the reviews section but, well, here we are. When you've finally decided on a hotel, take a good look through the pictures on their site and remember that the pictures are ALWAYS produced to show a higher quality than what you'll receive. Pictures look just okay? That room will be a bit less than "just okay." This is where you have to be vigilant. Make sure to check both the hotel's pictures and guest pictures of the rooms and grounds. These will be your lens into the hotel before you step through those doors. Get a good feel and get comfortable. If you think you've found the right one, book away, baby, you're going on vacation!