

Beat: Travel

Europe Tops AAA's 2016 Summer Travel Destinations List

European travel demand remains strong

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USPA NEWS - Demand for travel to Europe remains strong, and AAA summer travel bookings show that Rome and London are at the top of many international travelers' itineraries this summer. Americans are also flocking to warm-weather destinations in the U.S., Mexico and Caribbean, and increasingly traveling...

Demand for travel to Europe remains strong, and AAA summer travel bookings show that Rome and London are at the top of many international travelers' itineraries this summer. Americans are also flocking to warm-weather destinations in the U.S., Mexico and Caribbean, and increasingly traveling to Canada to take advantage of favorable exchange rates.

The top international summer destinations, based on AAA bookings for travel June 1 through August 15, are :

- 1 - Rome, Italy (4)
- 2 - London, England (3)
- 3 - Cancun, Mexico (1)
- 4 - Vancouver, Canada (8)
- 5 - Paris, France (7)
- 6 - Dublin, Ireland (6)
- 7 - Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (2)
- 8 - Montego Bay, Jamaica (5)
- 9 - Calgary, Canada
- 10 - Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Number in parentheses indicates summer 2015 ranking position.

'Europe remains very popular with American travelers despite recent terrorism concerns,' said Bill Sutherland, AAA senior vice president of travel and publishing. 'A strong dollar, discounted pricing and a continued sense of resilience are motivating millions of Americans to venture across the pond for their summer vacations this year.'

On May 31, the U.S. State Department issued a travel alert for Europe, citing the risk of potential terror attacks. Travel alerts are issued for short-term events that travelers should be aware of when planning to visit a country. This differs from a travel warning in which the State Department urges travelers to consider very carefully whether to visit a country or region at all.

Domestically, the great American road trip is back, with nearly 56 % of Americans planning a drive vacation this summer, according to a recent AAA survey. The lowest summertime gas prices in 11 years are prompting Americans to drive in record numbers. More than half of U.S. adults say low gas prices are prompting them to hit the roads this year.

Below, AAA's top domestic summer travel destinations include :

- 1 - Orlando, Fla. (1)
- 2 - Seattle, Wash.
- 3 - Los Angeles/Anaheim, Calif. (7)
- 4 - Honolulu, Hawaii (4)
- 5 - Las Vegas, Nev.
- 6 - Anchorage, Alaska
- 7 - New York, N.Y.
- 8 - Maui, Hawaii
- 9 - San Francisco, Calif.

10 - Denver, Colo.

*Number in parentheses indicates summer 2015 ranking position.

'Orlando consistently holds the top spot on AAA's list of most-popular U.S. travel destinations, while southern California has climbed in the rankings,' said Sutherland. 'Several newcomers to the list indicate that Americans are looking forward to venturing out this summer and exploring diverse destinations from coast to coast.'

Source : AAA

Ruby BIRD

<http://www.portfolio.uspa24.com/>

Yasmina BEDDOU

<http://www.yasmina-beddou.uspa24.com/>

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

United Press Association, Inc.

3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168

Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA

(702) 943.0321 Local

(702) 943.0233 Facsimile

info@unitedpressassociation.org

info@gna24.com

www.gna24.com