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TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## London, New York top consumers' fall travel wish lists: Expedia

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Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam is one of consumers' top fall destination prospects. Image credit: Pixabay

By KATIE TAMOLA

Consumers have some pep in their steps for the upcoming season change, according to a new study from travel shopping company Expedia.



While some travelers find it difficult to let go of summer or have avoided new-season travel in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many are layering up for trips, with searches for fall getaways showing a 40 percent increase year-over-year. Deals on travel packages are increasingly permeating, with some popular destinations that travelers are considering include Barbados, Ho Chi Minh City, London and Munich, all of which have seen triple-digit increases in interest.

"Fall is right around the corner, and while many are looking forward to breaking out their favorite boots and pumpkin bread recipes, autumn also means big travel savings," said Christie Hudson, head of U.S. public relations for Expedia, in a statement.

"Many destinations are more affordable than they've been in months, making it the perfect time to have an authentic Oktoberfest experience in Munich or swap out the faux foliage for the real deal in New England."

For this study, Expedia compared flight searches made between Jan. 1 and July 26 for travel between Sept. 6 and Nov. 15 in 2021 and 2022, price comparisons were also based on Expedia flight forecasts for travel between Sept. 5, 2022 through Nov. 15, 2022, compared to travel between May 31, 2022 through Sept. 4, 2022 as of Aug. 14, 2022. Expedia also compared average ticket prices and/or average daily hotel rates for travel between June 1 and Aug. 30, 2022 and Sept. 6 and Nov. 15, 2022.

Once the first leaf hits the ground

Consumers are keeping their destination options open based on their preferences, with some choosing to stay local and others venturing out of the country.

Domestic travel during the week of Sept. 26 brings ticket prices expected to be 45 percent cheaper than they were during the summer months. For those looking to go international, specifically during the week of Oct. 10, average

prices are expected to be 20 percent lower than during summer.



With New York being a top city destination, Ritz Carlton New York includes 250 guestrooms including 19 suites and 16 one- and two-bedroom penthouse residences. Image credit: Ritz-Carlton

Departing on a Tuesday or Wednesday instead of a Monday will most likely land travelers cheaper fares.

Average ticket prices are plummeting both domestically and internationally.

The average ticket price (ATP) for Seattle is down more than 45 percent; Los Angeles' ATP saw a 35 percent decrease and Portland's ATP saw nearly a 35 percent dip.

Barcelona saw an ATP dip of almost 30 percent while Cancun and Mexico City saw an ATP down more than 10 percent.

The top destinations for Europe include London, Munich, Copenhagen and Dublin.

For Asia/Oceania, the top spots are Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Nepal, Seoul and Auckland. Top beachy destinations include Barbados, Orlando, Punta Cana, Orange County and Fort Lauderdale.

The most preferred city destinations within the U.S. include New York, Seattle, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Boston.

Meeting consumers where they are at

As London is a top travel destination this fall, luxury hospitality is ready to deliver.



A Rosewood London butler getting the bath ready. Image credit: Rosewood London

In 2019, Rosewood asked: what makes a Rosewood butler different from any other?

Rosewood London, the hotel chain's outpost in the British capital, set out to explain in a push backed by social media.

Like most luxury hotels, butlers in Rosewood are there to anticipate and meet the needs of guests, pampering to an extent that memories are formed of the experience.

The Ritz-Carlton's butlers, for example, do all of the above. But there is also the bath butler who can be summoned to draw the bath, mix the oils and get the mood ready for the guest to relax, with the service available in Rosewood London (see story).

With Ho Chi Minh City being another buzzing destination, Hotel group Marriott International has announced its plans to add eight hotels to its portfolio in Vietnam.

The eight additions, which will include almost 2,2000 rooms, include six conversions and two new build hotels. The expansion is reflective of Marriott's anticipation of consumers continuing to return to travel (see story).

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