

Glamour Living

“Gonna travel, gonna travel wild and free. I’m gonna pack my bags because this great big world is calling me.” —Elvis Presley, in the song,



Hey Girl, Let's Hit The Road!

Where to go, what to do—and how to look great when you get there. *By Kristin Luna*

First, A Few FAQs

As a travel writer, I spend four to seven months out of every year in cars, planes, and hotels—so I know what a pain the planning process *can* be...but it doesn't have to be! Here, I'm answering those questions I get asked all-the-time (and I'm calling in reinforcements to help):

Q: What's the cheapest spot to go now?

“Summer is off-season in the Southwest (think Vegas), Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America, so you can find deals on airfare, car rentals, hotels, even restaurants there now,” says Claire Newell, author of *Travel Best Bets*.

When should I book airline tickets to make sure I'm getting the best price?

“Start shopping for tickets two to three months in advance,” says Newell. “That's when sales for domestic flights and flights to places like Mexico kick in.” (IOW: Book now!) Want to go sooner? “Sign up for airfare email alerts,” says George Hobic, founder of airfare watchdog.com, “and pounce when the fare goes down. It can change in hours!”

How can I be sure I've found the absolute best-priced airline tickets?

Try hipmunk.com for a price check on all fares. (The site doesn't sell tickets.)

How can I be sure the inexpensive hotel I found isn't a complete dump?

I suggest cross-referencing the reviews. Start with tripadvisor.com (a hotel with a slew of four- or five-star reviews written by “Top Contributors” is a good bet), and do a cross-check with yelp.com. Or book a condo or home on airbnb.com, which has detailed reviews from guests.

How can I find cool local restaurants?

There's an app for that (actually, two!). Chefs Feed and Find. Eat. Drink. give local picks from top chefs, Newell says.

SANTA FE: ALEXANDER ALBRECHT/TALAMY; NASHVILLE: KATHERINE BOMBOY/THORNTON/ABC; ICE CREAM: LEE LA CYD; SWIFT: TK/SP/ASH NEWS; STILLS: CATHY CRAWFORD; STYLIST: JODY COOK; OUTFITS (FROM TOP): VINCENT SHIRT, BANANA REPUBLIC MILLY COLLECTION SKIRT; GILES & BROTHER BRACELET; IIBECA BY JOY GRAYSON BAG, GOMAX SANDALS; ERES BIKINI; KAWINSKI XY FEDORA, RAG & BONE TANK; LULU FROST NECKLACE; GUESS PUMPS. GO TO GLAMOUR.COM/MAGAZINE FOR MORE SHOPPING INFORMATION

Now, Pick Your Destination

I've been to places as far-flung as Tokyo and Anguilla (both cool!) but you don't have to go across the world for a good time. In the U.S., my girlfriends and I love these cities for the amazing food, insane views, kickass music, and, hello, shopping!



For outdoorsy girls... Santa Fe, N.M.

Pack athletic shoes—you won't be able to resist hiking the Sangre de Cristo Mountains (above). (*Glamour* editor Rebecca Sinn likes the Atalaya Mountain trail—unreal views of the Rio Grande Valley!) Take a drive into the seventeenth-century Spanish town of Chimayo, says Leigh Crandall of jetsetter.com, for traditional arts and crafts—or browse at the 200-ish galleries in Santa Fe. Stay at the historic La Fonda on the Plaza, and sample the city's famous breakfast burrito at locally loved Plaza Café.

Packing Tip

Got a piece of clothing that's prone to wrinkles? Petra Flannery suggests hanging it in dry-cleaning plastic, folding it once, and pressing the air out to get it flat. Everything else just gets rolled up.



For music junkies... Nashville

The city has 100-plus concerts this summer—from Beyoncé to Bruno Mars. *Nashville* fans: Stop by The Bluebird Café to jam to up-and-coming singer-songwriters. (Taylor Swift got her start there, or you might catch her at the coffee shop Fido.) Before your big night out, pick up tailored jeans at Imogene + Willie and vintage boots at Goodbuy Girls—then head to dinner at one of Connie Britton's favorite spots, The Catbird Seat, for a seasonal, multi-course tasting menu. Later, go to the honky-tonk bars on Broadway (try The Stage or Paradise Park) to dance to live music, and hit the sack at the centrally located Hutton Hotel (it's got chic art galore!).



T-Swift's Red Tour hits Nashville in September.



For serious foodies... Portland, Ore.

Put on a roomy dress and head to one of Portland's nearly 1,500 restaurants and 475 food carts. (At the top of our must-try list: fried chicken and sweet-potato waffles at crowd favorite Screen Door, and honey balsamic strawberry ice cream with cracked pepper at new hot spot Salt & Straw.) Thirsty? Portland has 53 microbreweries—they call the city "Brewvana," says Stefanie Michaels, founder of adventuregirl.com—like Base Camp Brewing Company (order the Ripstop Rye Pilsner). Set up camp at Hotel Monaco (they have a free wine hour *and* you can get a goldfish in your room). And don't leave before you've taken full advantage of the tax-free shopping. Cool stops: home shop Woonwinkel and jewelry boutique Betsy & Iya.

And Don't Bring Your Whole

Start with an packable staple—a print skirt—and remix it with items that fit in a carry-on. *Celeb stylist Petra Flannery explains:*

Bring a medium-size bag: it's



Your Casual Day Look

"Mix the skirt with a basic T, sandals, and a cross-strap bag," she says.



Neutral sandals work with any day outfit.

Your Beach Look

"Wear it with a bright bandeau swimsuit—I like Eres—and a straw hat."



Metallic shoes dress things up.

Your Going-Out Look

"Make the skirt 'evening,' with a silky cami, a funky necklace, and heels."