

# Forbes

## Traveling For Labor Day Weekend? Here's What To Expect



Americans may have skipped out their summer vacations, but they are eager to travel this Labor Day Weekend after months of being cooped up at home. A Travelocity survey in May revealed that most families were postponing or planning their first leisurely trip during COVID-19 for Labor Day weekend. Three in four families said they were planning outdoor and adventure activities for the holiday, and roughly half told the travel provider they would opt for water activities like visiting a beach or lake. “Labor Day could be the last chance until the holidays for many families and travelers who may have sat out their regular summer plans to get out of the house together,” says Katie Junod, General Manager at Travelocity. “With safety as the main priority, travelers are taking advantage of the time off to extend their stay and slow down, with activities and destinations that allow them to spend as much time as possible outside.”

According to the survey, 73% of families said they were planning outdoor activities and over 50% said they would opt for water activities, condo and cabin bookings have seen a

540% and 485% increase respectively and the average length of stay for the holiday weekend is up by double digits. Dr. Abraar Karan, Harvard Medical Doctor and COVID-19 researcher emphasizes that travelers should remember that the virus doesn't take holidays. "Remember to wear masks consistently, try to socialize outdoors as indoor crowding is where transmission can happen most easily so avoid indoor bars. If you have your own hotel room, transmission risk should generally be low but again— remember to wear your mask in public spaces and watch out for crowding, such as to get into an elevator. Transmission can happen when you are least expecting," he explained. "Even if you receive a negative rapid test before traveling I wouldn't use that as a reason to stop masking or avoiding indoor crowds. In terms of rapid antigen tests— these have only just been approved under an FDA emergency use authorization. Even a positive rapid test needs to be confirmed by rtPCR. And, you can have false negatives with these tests, especially if you are a couple of days before your peak infectiousness."

If you are looking to book a last minute getaway or already have one planned here is what to expect from airlines, rental car services and hotels.

## **Hotel Californian**



Santa Barbara's [Hotel Californian](#) features a Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and a modern Moorish vibe: the waterfront resort caters to the Hollywood elite, domestic and international visitors alike. Paying homage to a 1925 hotel formerly on the site, this lower State Street destination near Santa Barbara's waterfront has been meticulously curated by Los Angeles developer Michael Rosenfeld (The Grove, Century Plaza Hotel) and features paseos, gardens, fountains and open plazas. The 121-room Hotel Californian is located adjacent to Santa Barbara's vibrant Funk Zone and one block from Santa Barbara's train station. The hotel's stylish interior décor was designed by elite, A-list designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard, embracing Santa Barbara style with impeccable, unexpected details and thought-provoking art at every turn. Due to COVID-19, the hotel has implemented creative protocols including keeping doors propped open where possible to minimize contact, and they are sanitizing luggage carts, elevators, complimentary bicycles, room keys and computer pads between each use. Rooms are sanitized with electrostatic sprayers following each guest's departure. Seating at the pool and rooftop is spaced at least six feet apart.