



Experts Predict the Hottest Travel Trends for 2013

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Article By: Tara Imperatore, Associate Editor & Travel Editor

In a shocking turn of events, the Mayan calendar's predictions did not come true. So now what? I guess it's time to take that exciting luxury vacation you've always dreamed of before the world potentially comes to an end again. Perhaps you've already started thinking about some upcoming travel plans for 2013—will you go on a romantic escape with your significant other? Take a family trip for some quality bonding time? Head out on that exotic adventure that's been on your bucket list? Or maybe take a solo travel opportunity to do some soul searching?

Since we're too impatient to wait another year to find out your selections, we went right to the source for some insightful predictions. Experienced representatives from all facets of the travel industry, including cruise, hotel, and tour companies, gave us their expert opinions on how they envision discerning travelers spending their hard earned time off and just where they'll be heading to in the new year.

Powering Down

For those who are going to do the unthinkable and leave the tablets behind, Lindsey Ueberroth, President of Preferred Hotel Group, predicts that these types of travelers will be more focused on finding hotels that will actually help them escape all the digital devices. Busy executives who always seem to have a Blackberry in one hand and an iPad in the other, will be looking to detach themselves from the technological demands of their careers and really appreciate their vacation time.

The Family That Travels Together Stays Together

In the coming year, travel will be a family affair. Lindsey Ueberroth of Preferred Hotel Group sees multi-generational travel growing in popularity, as parents and grandparents want to educate their children with authentic, interactive experiences over merely just reading a book on the subject. Hotels will be supporting the cause with vamped up events and programs for youngsters to get them involved in local culture, art, food and more. "There will be an increase in requests for far-flung destinations," says Ueberroth, "so we will see more hotels offering experiences that go beyond the typical kids program to help kids 'experience' travel versus just 'see' things."