

More Travelers Packing Up Sleighs For December Holidays In 2011 TripAdvisor Survey Reveals 43 Percent Plan to Travel This Festive Season, Up Five Percent Compared to 2010

PR Newswire
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NEWTON, Mass., Nov. 29, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- TripAdvisor®, the world's largest travel site*, today announced the results of its annual December holiday travel survey of more than 2,100 U.S. travelers. Despite the current economic climate, 76 percent of respondents say the economy has not impacted their December holiday travel plans. Forty-three percent are planning to travel over the festive season this year, up from 38 percent who did so in 2010.

To view the multimedia assets associated with this release, please click:<http://www.multivu.com/mnr/49250-tripadvisor-annual-holiday-travel-plans-survey>

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The majority of travelers intend to hit the road for the Christmas holiday, with 34 percent planning to travel, up from 32 percent in 2010 - while 16 percent plan to travel for New Year's, up from 13 percent last year. Among those traveling, 59 percent will visit family or friends, 18 percent are planning a sunshine getaway and 11 percent intend to take a city break.

Holiday Air Travel on the Rise

While driving is the top choice among those traveling for the December holidays this year (48 percent), fewer motorists will take to the roads than in 2010, while airport traffic should see an increase compared to last year:

Holiday Travel	2010*	2011*
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Car	52%	48%
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Airplane	43%	46%
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*Primary mode of transportation for the December holidays, among those who traveled in 2010 and / or 2011.

Trials and Tribulations of Holiday Travel

Fifty-one percent of those traveling for the December holidays expect to be stressed by the experience, with airline annoyances ranking top of the list of least enjoyable travel hurdles:

1. Bad traffic - 8%
2. Overcrowded airports - 11%
3. Price of transportation - 15%
4. Inclement weather - 21%
5. Airline delays and cancellations - 22%

Travelers' Top Strategies for Seasonal Stress-Limitation

1. Taking a sleeping pill on a flight - 4%
2. Consuming alcohol on a flight - 8%
3. Traveling a shorter distance than usual - 8%
4. Paying for accommodation, rather than staying with family or friends - 14%
5. Traveling at off-peak hours - 47%

Top Five Holiday Travel Mishaps- and How to Overcome Them

1. Avoid a last-minute packing frenzy: eight percent have forgotten to pack gifts in their luggage.
2. Allow for extra time: eight percent have missed a flight over the holidays.
3. Label all luggage, both inside and out: 14 percent have suffered the inconvenience of lost luggage over the holidays.
4. Monitor airport developments: 23 percent have endured a holiday flight cancellation.
5. Stash emergency supplies in the trunk: 29 percent of travelers have experienced considerable traffic jams during their December holiday travels.

Festive Fliers Plan Frugal Measures

Festive fliers have a number of thrifty tactics up their sleeves, in order to avoid or minimize baggage fees this holiday season:

1. Do laundry at my destination, to avoid checking bags - 17%
2. Mail gifts to my holiday destination - 17%
3. Have online gifts shipped directly to my holiday destination - 23%
4. Fly with an airline that does not charge for checked bags - 27%
5. Bring only carry-on bags - 33%

Additional Holiday Travel Tidbits

- Among these mobile users, 80 percent will check the weather, 58 percent will research restaurants and 50 percent will use their device for navigation purposes.
- 49 percent of those traveling plan on using a smartphone or tablet device to plan or assist in their holiday travels this year.
- Among those who have traveled over the December holidays in years past, 23 percent think travelers behave towards one another with worse manners than usual during the "season of goodwill", while 16 percent consider manners to be improved.
- 22 percent of those traveling plan to pack ornament earrings or other holiday-themed jewelry, 17 percent will carry holiday sweaters and 10 percent will travel with Santa hats.
- 23 percent have purchased last-minute gifts en route to their December holiday destination, with airports the top pick for face-saving purchases (11 percent).

"When it comes to traveling over a busy period such as the December holidays, preparedness is key - and with 43 percent of Americans planning to take to the skies, roads and more this festive season, travelers should anticipate significant crowds," said Karen Drake, senior director of communications for TripAdvisor.

About TripAdvisor

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TripAdvisor® Media Group, operated by TripAdvisor LLC, attracts more than 65 million unique monthly visitors* across 19 popular travel brands**. TripAdvisor-branded sites make up the largest travel community in the world, with more than 50 million unique monthly visitors***, 20 million members, and over 50 million reviews and opinions. The sites operate in 30 countries worldwide****, including China under daodao.com. TripAdvisor also operates TripAdvisor for Business, a dedicated division that provides the tourism industry access to TripAdvisor's millions of monthly visitors. The division includes Business Listings, which allows hoteliers to connect directly to millions of researching travelers, and Vacation Rentals, which helps property managers

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TripAdvisor Media Group generated \$486 million in revenue in 2010. TripAdvisor and the sites comprising the TripAdvisor Media Group are operating companies of Expedia, Inc. (NASDAQ: EXPE).

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*Source: comScore Media Metrix for TripAdvisor Media Group Sites, Worldwide, August 2011

** In addition to TripAdvisor, The TripAdvisor Media Group of websites includes www.airfarewatchdog.com, www.bookingbuddy.com, www.cruisecritic.com, www.everytrail.com, www.familyvacationcritic.com, www.flipkey.com, www.holidaylettings.co.uk, www.holidaywatchdog.com, www.independenttraveler.com, www.onetime.com, www.seatguru.com, www.sniqueaway.com, www.smartertravel.com, www.travel-library.com, www.travelpod.com, www.virtualtourist.com, www.wherivebeen.com, and www.kuxun.cn.

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Travelers' Top Strategies for Seasonal Stress-Limitation

1. Traveling at off-peak hours - 47%
2. Paying for accommodation, rather than staying with family or friends - 14%
3. Traveling a shorter distance than usual - 8%
4. Consuming alcohol on a flight - 8%
5. Taking a sleeping pill on a flight - 4%

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1. **Stash emergency supplies in the trunk:** 29 percent of travelers have experienced considerable traffic jams during their December holiday travels.
2. **Monitor airport developments:** 23 percent have endured a holiday flight cancellation.
3. **Label all luggage, both inside and out:** 14 percent have suffered the inconvenience of lost luggage over the holidays.
4. **Allow for extra time:** eight percent have missed a flight over the holidays.
5. **Avoid a last-minute packing frenzy:** eight percent have forgotten to pack gifts in their luggage.

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