**Vaccines Inject Travel Optimism For Summer 2021**

**Forbes** *Advisor*. Jason Metz. April 15, 2021Warm weather and vaccines have many Americans looking to welcome back a pre-pandemic tradition: the summer vacation.

About two-thirds of Americans believe receiving a Covid-19 vaccine will make them feel safe enough to travel again, according to a recent survey of 3,500 U.S. customers of Allianz Partners, a travel insurance company.

**Bring On the Long Summer Getaway**

After an extraordinarily long bout of cabin fever, plenty of travelers are looking to go big this summer. Most travelers (59%) are booking seven-night trips and 37% are booking six-night trips, according to Allianz. By comparison, in 2019 the most popular choice (30%) for a summer trip was a four-night getaway.

For the fifth year in a row, Orlando, Florida and Cancun are the summer hot spots, according to an Allianz analysis of 985,000 flight itineraries for trips between five and eight days. Hawaii is among the most popular destinations for domestic travel, while Caribbean destinations are among the top 10 for international trips.

Here are the top 10 domestic destinations for summer 2021, according to Allianz:

1. Orlando, Florida
2. Maui, Hawaii
3. Honolulu, Hawaii
4. Seattle, Washington
5. Anchorage, Alaska
6. Las Vegas, Nevada
7. Kauai, Hawaii
8. Big Island, Hawaii
9. Boston, Massachusetts
10. Miami, Florida

Here are the top 10 international destinations for summer 2021, according to Allianz:

1. Cancun, Mexico
2. San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico
3. Aruba
4. San Juan, Puerto Rico
5. Charlotte Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands
6. Montego Bay, Jamaica
7. Providenciales, Turks and Caicos
8. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
9. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
10. Nassau, Bahamas

**The Great American Road Trip**

Not everyone is eager to board airplanes and jet off to a distant location. Plenty of Americans are planning a road trip for their summer vacation. More than half of respondents to a survey conducted by Erie Insurance say they plan a road trip this year. And of those hitting the road, more than half plan to travel more than 500 miles from home. More than a third plan to travel over 1,000 miles.

So, where are these road-trippers going? The majority (41%) plan to overcome Zoom-fatigue and visit loved ones. Beach trips (21%) and national parks (12%) were also popular destinations. Road-trippers are also looking for socially distant outdoor vacations, such as camping, lakeside resorts, lodges and cabins.

**Travel in 2021 Will be a “Very Different Experience”**

While many of us didn’t venture far outside of our ZIP codes in 2020, AAA travel experts say that travel will look a lot different from the last time we took a trip. Here are some travel tips from AAA:

* Masks. Some states may continue mask mandates and you may be required to wear masks in public places, including planes, buses and trains.
* Driving. If you’re planning a road trip, you can check AAA’s [Covid-19 Travel Restrictions Map](https://gds.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2ec42826968d4d0980ccca0fbbfe0c7c&sf122295430=1) and  [TripTik](https://triptik.aaa.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for state and local travel restrictions, as well as rest stops, gas stations, restaurants and hotels along the route. If you are renting a car, be sure to ask about the rental company’s disinfectant and sanitation process.
* Hotels. Before your departure, call ahead and make sure the hotel is open and ask precautions they are taking to protect guests.
* Air travel. Expect in-flight amenities like food and beverage to be unavailable or limited. Some airlines might limit flight capacity or leave the middle seat empty. Masks are required at airports and on planes.
* International air travel. All passengers coming to the U.S. (including U.S. citizens) are required to have a negative Covid-19 test result or documentation of recovery from Covid-19 before they board a flight to the U.S.
* Cruises. Some cruise lines have extended their suspension of sailing operations further into 2021. If you are considering a future cruise, AAA recommends you talk to the cruise line or a travel agent about the ship’s cancellation policy. In addition, consider [cruise insurance](https://www.forbes.com/advisor/travel-insurance/best-cruise-insurance/).

**Major Airlines Support International Contact Tracing Program**

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, airlines have adopted safety measures such as mask requirements for passengers and employees, pre-departure health acknowledgment forms and an enhanced disinfection process. Some major airlines have recently expanded their safety protocols by implementing a voluntary contact tracing program.

Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines have committed to collect contact tracing data from passengers who travel into the U.S. The airlines will transmit that data to the CDC.

Passengers who volunteer to give this information will provide:

* Legal name
* Two phone numbers
* Email address
* The address where the traveler will be staying in the U.S. or their address of permanent residence in the U.S.

Contact tracing is another measure in a multi-layer approach to assure U.S. airlines and the federal government are prioritizing the health and safety of passengers and crew, said Nicholas E. Calio, CEO and President of Airlines for America, in a statement.

“We are hopeful that this measure, coupled with existing testing requirements for passengers flying to the U.S., will lead policymakers to lift travel restrictions so that international travel can resume and the social economic benefits of that travel can be realized,” Calio said.

If you’re traveling and worried about quarantines, read about [travel insurance for quarantining](https://www.forbes.com/advisor/travel-insurance/covid-quarantine/).

**More Cruise Lines Require Proof of Vaccinations**

American Queen Steamboat Company resumed its cruises in March 2021 and has taken precautions that include masks and temperature checks. Guests will check in to a pre-cruise hotel on the day before departure where they will complete a health questionnaire and take a Covid-19 test. If you test positive for Covid-19, you will not be able to board.

Any cruises booked for departure starting on July 1, 2021, and after will require verified documentation of vaccination. Guests who do not have their second dose of vaccination prior to departure will be rebooked for a future cruise at no charge, according to the American Queen Steamboat Company website.

Guests that booked a cruise on or after July 1, 2021, who opt not to have the vaccination will receive a full refund but will not be able to board the ship.

Celebrity Cruises also announced it will be resuming cruises in June with ships sailing out of the Bahamas and St. Maarten. All adults (including the crew) will be required to provide proof of a Covid-19 vaccination before they are permitted to board. Children will be required to show proof of a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of departure.

Royal Caribbean International announced proof of vaccinations are required for adult guests of the Adventure of the Seas and Vision of the Seas. Guests under age 18 will need to provide a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR test result.

**Trip Cancellation Insurance Is a Must-Have**

“Trip cancellation has always been the primary driver of travel insurance purchases,” says Moncrief. “We’ve seen this number range from 80% to 90% of our sales, but never this high.”

[Trip cancellation insurance](https://www.forbes.com/advisor/travel-insurance/trip-cancellation/) reimburses the prepaid and non-refundable costs for your trip if you’re unable to travel due to an unforeseen circumstance. “Unforeseen circumstances” typically include serious injuries, natural disasters, death of you or a traveling companion, severe weather that makes a travel service unable to operate.

Generally, travel insurance companies consider pandemics a foreseeable event. But many travel insurance companies sell policies with Covid-related coverage, which makes trip cancellation a must buy. Ninety-five percent of travel insurance policies for trips in 2021 include trip cancellation coverage, according to Squaremouth.

See Forbes Advisor’s ratings of the [best pandemic travel insurance plans](https://www.forbes.com/advisor/travel-insurance/best-pandemic-travel-insurance/).

**Changing Travel Rules Boost Need for Cancel for Any Reason Coverage**

There has been a 42% increase in cancel for any reason (CFAR) coverage for U.S. travelers booking international trips, according to Squaremouth.

Cancel for any reason coverage works like the name implies: You can cancel your trip no matter the reason, whether it’s Covid-related or you’d just prefer to spend a weekend working on a landscaping project.

CFAR coverage isn’t only for international travelers—it can be valuable coverage for anyone who wants the most flexibility to cancel a trip and get a portion of nonrefundable trip expenses reimbursed, no matter where you’re going.

The new CDC rule applies to air travel—and all American citizens—but not land border crossings.

If a rule like that changes your mind about taking a planned trip, CFAR coverage is your way out.

You typically need to buy cancel for any reason coverage within 14 to 21 days of your first trip payment. And this coverage does come with some restrictions. For example, you might have to cancel the trip within 48 hours of departure in order to make a CFAR claim, meaning you can’t cancel at the last minute.

While this coverage will increase the price of your travel insurance policy by about 40%, it’s become a popular option during Covid-19. Squaremouth has seen an increase of over 200% for cancel for any reason coverage for trips being booked for 2021.