

## All the Ways the Travel Industry Is Helping with Coronavirus

by SARAH FIRSHEIN  
March 26, 2020



*Further proof that the hospitality industry knows how to take care of people.*

Sweeping travel **restrictions** and **advisories**. **Grounded planes** and  **canceled cruises**. **Pitch-dark casinos**. And a completely **locked-down Italy**, a much-loved destination for travelers all over the globe.

There's no denying that the coronavirus outbreak has changed, and will continue to change, how we travel. But even in light of the bleakest news—like the potential loss of 4.6 million travel-related jobs, according to a recent estimate by the **U.S. Travel Association**—the industry has banded together to aid in the fight.

While tourism has come to a halt, hotels and other travel companies are supporting front-line response efforts as well as their own employees. They've jumped in to donate food and supplies, aid medical personnel, lend empty real estate and other physical assets, and establish employee funds. Here are several ways the travel and hospitality industry is giving back amid the crisis.

### Food and supply donations

**The Line D.C.** has converted its lobby into a pickup location for **Friends & Family Meal**, an organization that collects food from restaurants and overstock from suppliers. Hospitality workers who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus can pick up free bags of groceries throughout the day.

Ocean House Management—which operates **Ocean House**, **Weekapaug Inn**, and **Watch Hill Inn** in Rhode Island and **Inn at Hastings Park** in Massachusetts—has opened a thrice-weekly food truck in Westerly, Rhode Island, to serve free lunch to area school children 16 and under.