

Florida cracks down on 'vaccine' tourism

Florida is cracking down on a trend that's being called "vaccine tourism."

Reports show people are traveling to Florida from other states to get shots. Others are from Canada and other countries across the globe.

Some Floridians say they have been hitting a brick wall trying to get the vaccine. But as they struggle to get appointments for the vaccine, they worry that the already limited supply may be going to people who don't live in Florida.

Under Florida's vaccine plan, healthcare, long-term care workers and those 65 and up who are at least part-time residents, are eligible to get the vaccine. But according to data from the state Department of Health, of the more than 1.1 million people vaccinated so far, more than 39,000 reside outside Florida.

The Buenos Aires newspaper Clarin recently found that a dozen wealthy Argentinians traveled to Miami to get the shot. Argentine TV personality Yanina Latorre also recently posted video on Instagram showing her elderly mother getting vaccinated in Miami.

Two travel agencies in India are also reportedly marketing a vaccine

Continued on page 2



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COVID-19 will have a significant effect on the types of trips we will choose this year

The pandemic will have a long-lasting impact on how and why people travel, which means this year's leisure trip trends are likely to look drastically different from those in the past.

These predictions are presented by Booking.com and are based on its queries with nearly 21,000 people worldwide.

Deal & Savings-Centered Travel

During 2021, traveling became increasingly challenging health-wise and financially.

Many people saw work hours cut in half or lost jobs and faced a whole new way of life. Therefore, rather than splurging on a deluxe vacation, thoughts shifted to leisure trips that were shorter and within a tight budget.

This trend is expected to carry on into the future. Many people who

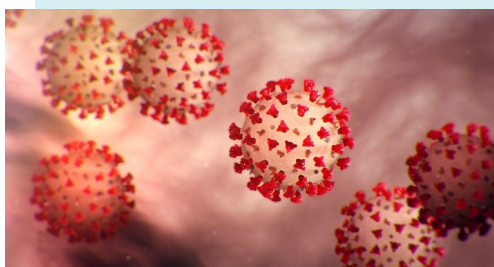
used to spend all manner of money on vacations veered to hashing out every detail to make sure they're saving as much as possible, while still having a monetary cushion to come home to.

Sustainable Travel & Getting Back To Nature

This category has already evolved into something that has significantly shaped the way travel has been conducted during the pandemic and will likely continue long after it's over. The trend, which is not necessarily bad, is seen in travelers who make it a point of partaking in sustainable travel and using the time to give back, in a sense, to the nature that sustains us.

The most logical thing to do in order to get away has been to return to isolation in a new form.

Continued on page 2



'Vaccine' tourism

Continue from page 1

travel package. For a few thousand dollars, tourists get roundtrip airfare to the U.S. and a shot upon arrival. Neither travel agency responded to a request for comment, but one of them claimed on social media everything is being done with proper permissions from the U.S. authorities.

Martin Firestone is a travel insurance broker in Toronto, where the vaccine isn't expected until the fall. Many of his clients usually spend the winter months in Florida.

"They had no intentions of going down this year, only when the vaccine became available or they heard from their friends who are down in those communities now and say, 'I've got my first shot already. Like why don't you come down?' that prompted them to now say, 'okay, we're ready and we're heading down.'"

A British travel agency is offering a vaccine tourism package for the equivalent of more than \$30,000.

It includes air travel to Dubai, lodging, and both doses of the vaccine.

The travel agency said in a statement that remaining ethical is its paramount goal.

– *wkrg.com*



Rather than focus on the hottest beach or nightspot, these trends are all about safety

COVID-19 alters potential 2021 trip types

Continue from page 1

Travelers are choosing a remote, uninterrupted vacation and learning more about the world, rather than seeking the same old tourist attractions as everyone else.

Workcations

It's funny that while many people thought that working from home would be great, after the first month or so it became monotonous, socially isolating, and, well ... boring. Thus, the workcation was born.

Rather than remain in one's home during the entire "work from home" experience, many people opted to combine the idea of a vacation and a flexible work schedule to create a new experience altogether. With many hotels also functioning as clean, remote work-from-home spaces, these became ideal for anyone looking to get out of the house. Rentals with great wi-fi also became an option.

Travel as Part of Life

If nothing else, it's proven over the last year or so that traveling is part of maintaining mental health and well-being. It keeps us from feeling trapped within the walls of our own home or our own cities and encourages growth, learning, and new experiences.

All these things were sacrificed in 2020, which means that in 2021 travel will no longer be a thing of luxury or

something that happens just once a year, but now will be considered an integral part of self care.

Safety in the Forefront

Safety guidelines are beginning to extend far past the pandemic. Now, not only are travelers aware of the ongoing outbreak, but they're also aware of safety measures, period. Never has it been clearer that traveling is always a risk, with or without a pandemic. Crowded places, tight airplane cabins, and shared ship spaces all have the potential to carry germs and viruses.

This fear is now ingrained in the process of travel and is leading many to consider wearing a mask full-time, opting for less crowded flights or destinations, and traveling during the off-season to avoid being in a risky situation with too many people.

A Domestic Travel Boom

The increase in domestic travel is unbelievable. People are discovering or re-discovering all that surrounds them and taking full advantage of it. When our normal long-distance travel methods are stripped away, it's all we can do to begin appreciating what has been right in front – and around us – all this time and the appreciation of our communities and environments is part of the experience.

– *thetravel.com*