

10 TRIPS EVERY WOMAN SHOULD TAKE WITH HER FRIENDS

Skipping town with your girls has never looked so fun (and affordable!).



BY COSMO EDITORS JUL 2, 2017

Between work, family, and dating, everyone needs a break once in a while. And there's no better way to escape from the daily grind than by skipping town with your best girlfriends. But where should you go with your BFFs to feel relaxed without breaking the bank? Millennial travel planner and expert Maggie Stein of *The Know Experience*, a vacation and event-planning company, shares 10 amazing girls' getaway ideas.

1 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



Best for: Spa lovers

If you're going to get away, you might as well turn the trip into a full-blown pampering vacation. "Santa Fe is great if you love spas," says Stein. "It's like Sedona, Arizona with the desert and wellness vibe, but without the high price tag." Book a weekend at Sunrise Springs Spa Resort, which is set on 70 beautiful acres, all fed by natural springs. The hotel offers a large array of wellness activities from yoga to cooking, and it also has an on-site spa that combines Eastern and Western therapies.

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2 SONOMA, CALIFORNIA



Best for: Wine

"For those who have been there, done that with Napa and want something a little cheaper and more laid-back, Sonoma is the place to be for wine and food on the West Coast," says Stein. Head to the boutique property West Sonoma Inn & Spa, which is located in the heart of Sonoma wine country and has more than 130 nearby vineyards to choose from. Bonus: You don't have to leave the property for vineyard views and wine tastings.

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3 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Best for: Party starters

"Everyone knows that New Orleans is the place to hear some good music and eat and drink," says Stein. If that's what you're looking for, "Stay at The Ace Hotel. With its own concert venue, restaurants, and super popular rooftop bar and pool, it's the coolest game in town and perfect for a group of friends looking to have a good time in the Big Easy."

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4 MONTAUK, NEW YORK



Best for: Beach bums

Montauk may have gained a reputation as a bit of a party beach town in recent years, but the area's newest hotel is all about taking it easy and enjoying the low-key beach lifestyle. "Sole East Beach is perfect for a group of women who are all about hanging at the beach — it's the one hotel located across the street from the ocean," says Stein. But party spot The Sloppy Tuna is just a short-minute walk away in case you want to cut loose.

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5 LONDON, ENGLAND



Best for: Foodie fashionistas

London, with its hundreds of eateries, shops, and museums, is ideal for those who prefer exploration to relaxation — and the best part is you can easily cover a lot of ground in a long weekend. Book a room at the new The Ned hotel in the heart of London proper, where even locals love hanging at one of the nine bars and restaurants (one is in a former bank vault) or at the one of the two pools. "Although there's no need to ever leave the building, the city is at your doorstep, making it quite easy to do it all," says Stein.

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6 PAPAGAYO, COSTA RICA



Best for: Adrenaline junkies

You're on vacation, so why not get a little wild...literally? "In Costa Rica, you can zipline, surf, and hang with monkeys in the jungle," says Stein. At the end of the day, head back to the Andaz Papagayo, which is close to the airport, and has amazing food, like artisan corn pods, plus a killer spa. Oh — and there's a beach if you need to come down from your adrenaline high and take a dip in the Culebra Bay.

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7 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



Best for: Local culture seekers

Over the last few years, Brooklyn has been making its mark as the capital of cool. With its dive bars, artisan clothing shops, and quaint bistros, you won't even want to cross the bridge to the more traditional Manhattan. You'll still get a good view of the island, however, from 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge, a new hotel in DUMBO overlooking the East River. "It's a hotspot for locals because of its incredible rooftop and onsite restaurants — and some of the rooms even have hammocks," says Stein.

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8 BEND, OREGON



Best for: Activity enthusiasts

Do you like insanely beautiful landscapes? Do you love being outside and staying active? Do you also like having delicious food and plenty of spots to come home to at the end of a long day? This is exactly where you want to be. "Bend is a hidden gem in the Pacific Northwest that's perfect for outdoor types," says Stein. Stay at the ever-Spiritful Suites, which is within walking (or running) distance of the downtown Old Mill District, an area full of great shops and restaurants, and a quick ride (by bike or by car) to the trails.

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9 LOS CABOS, MEXICO



Best for: Starlet babes

"Cabo is a place that has something for everyone," says Stein. "Whether you're looking for a gritty party scene, a bohemian retreat, an active detox, or a pampering resort experience." As far as where to stay, try El Comino. "It's a very cool boutique hotel with a focus on art and music, even having their own rooftop concert series," adds Stein. "They also have their own beach club just across the wayway by the-minute boat shuttle."

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10 LISBON, PORTUGAL



Best for: Urban explorers

Lisbon is becoming one of Europe's major urban hotspots — and for good reason. "Lisbon has deep-rooted history mixed with a very vibrant local scene," says Stein. "It's not as glamorous as some other European cities, but that's the authentic charm I love. Not to mention, that makes for some pretty affordable pricing." Spend a few days wandering the cobblestone streets, taking in some beautiful views of waterfront pastel-colored buildings, gorging on seafood and vino verde wine, and then doing it all over again. Make Hotel Valverde, with its colorful design and central location (the Botanical Gardens are practically across the street), home base for your exploring.

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