

The New York Times

10 Great Last-Minute Vacations This Summer

By SHIVANI VORA JULY 25, 2017



Think it's too late to plan a memorable summer vacation? Think again. Although the last two weeks of August are a peak time for summer getaways with hotel rooms in desirable destinations sold out months in advance, plenty of properties in appealing places still have availability during this busy period, according to Kendra Thornton, the president of the Chicago-based travel agency [Royal Travel & Tours](#). She said that aspiring travelers also have options to book cruises and take private and group trips. "At this late stage, people assume that an end-of-summer vacation is out of the question, but that's not true," she said. Case in point: Ms. Thornton said her agency sold more than a dozen trips in the first week of July for travel at some point during the last two weeks of August to destinations like Japan, South America and Scandinavia. And travelers didn't pay a premium for these last-minute bookings.

Here are 10 vacation possibilities for late August, including an African safari, a European cruise and a bike trip through [Provence](#), France.

Gstaad, Switzerland

The [Ultima Gstaad](#) hotel has the Room With Breakfast and Dinner package for two people; it includes a three-night stay in a junior suite; two cocktails; daily breakfast and dinner at the hotel's Duchessa Restaurant; two massages at the hotel's spa; and a private hourlong yoga class; \$2,595. Book by emailing Reservation@ultimagstaad.com.

An Adriatic Cruise

Variety Cruises is offering [the Adriatic Odyssey](#), departing Aug. 20 from [Dubrovnik](#) for a seven-night itinerary on a 24-cabin motor sailer. The boat stops at the island of [Korcula](#) in Croatia; the Greek islands Paxos and [Corfu](#); and Kotor, a fortified town in Montenegro. From \$1,175 per person including all meals and a 50-euro onboard credit per person. Reserve at varietycruises.com or 800-319-7776.

Biking in Provence

DuVine Cycling & Adventure Company has a [four-day](#) biking trip through Provence from Aug. 27 to 30, which is open to all levels but best suited for those with cycling experience. Travelers bike through orchards, olive groves and vineyards, explore markets in the villages of Bedoin and Lacoste and visit family-run wineries for tastings. Stays are at upscale hotels throughout the region; \$3,495 a person inclusive of accommodations, meals, activities and nightly cocktails. Reserve at [888-396-5383](tel:888-396-5383).

Venice and the Dolomites, Italy

[Aman Venice](#) and [Rosa Alpina Hotel & Spa](#), in the Dolomites, are collaborating on the five-night Just the Two of Us package for two people. Guests stay three nights at the Aman Venice where they receive breakfast; two hourlong massages, one lunch or dinner at the property's restaurant with wine; unlimited drinks, including alcohol from the in-room minibar; a pre-dinner boat ride with drinks; airport transfers; transportation from the hotel to Rosa Alpina; and tickets for two to the Biennale Arte 2017 and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The remaining two nights are at Rosa Alpina, where the stay includes breakfast; a dinner for two at the hotel's restaurant Wine Bar & Grill; a five-course dinner for two with paired wines at the property's two-Michelin-starred restaurant, St. Hubertus; a barbecue lunch at the hotel's cabin in the mountains; a day of privately guided hiking; and two 50-minute massages at the property's spa; 8,000 euros, about \$9,173. Reserve at amanvenice.res@aman.com or reservations@rosalpina.it.

Nantucket, Mass.

[Nantucket Island Resorts](#), a collection of five properties on Nantucket, has rooms available in late August at all of them. Each hotel is different: The White Elephant overlooks the harbor; White Elephant Village offers free bicycle rentals and has a pool; the Cottages sits alongside the marina and is pet-friendly; the Jared Coffin House is in the heart of town, near boutiques and restaurants; while guests at the Wauwinet have access to two private beaches. Nightly rates from \$365. Reserve at nantucketislandresorts.com or [800-475-2637](tel:800-475-2637).

Portland and Camden, in Maine

The [Danforth Inn](#) in Portland and [Camden Harbour Inn](#) in Camden are collaborating on the four-night [Maine Town & Country Package](#). Guests stay two nights at each property and get breakfast at both. Included in Portland is a welcome cocktail, a dinner for two at the hotel's upscale restaurant, Tempo Dulu, and a \$50 gift card to the Portland Lobster Company restaurant. In Camden, which is a 90-minute drive from Portland, guests get a five-course dinner at the property's upscale restaurant, Natalie's, and a sunset cruise with prosecco and hors d'oeuvres. From \$1,060 a person. Reserve by calling [800-991-6557](tel:800-991-6557).

Peru

[Royal Travel & Tours](#) is offering an eight-day trip to Peru, which includes a night in Lima followed by six nights of guided hiking on the Inca Trail. Travelers hike through the Sacred Valley of the Incas and get a private tour of the Ollantaytambo ruins. They also take a pre-dawn hike up the Sun Gate Trail and reach the top just before sunrise to catch the first views of Machu Picchu; a guided tour follows. From \$1,700 a person including accommodations, some meals and guided hiking. Reserve at [800-747-7695](tel:800-747-7695) or by emailing Kendra Thornton at kthornton@royal-travel.com.

Kenya

The safari outfitter [Roar Africa](#) is selling a seven-night trip to Kenya, which includes a night in Nairobi with a visit to the Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and six nights split between Mara Plains Camp and Angama Mara, two safari lodges where guests can see giraffes, elephants, zebras and lions; they will also catch the wildebeest migration, when more than two million of the animals migrate from Tanzania to Kenya. From \$1,700 a person a night inclusive of accommodations, meals, game drives and excursions from the lodges such as a visit to a local village. Reserve at welcome@roarafrika.com.

Porto Heli, Greece

[Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Porto Heli](#), on the Aegean Sea in the seaside town of Porto Heli, in southeastern Greece, has the three-night Luxx Room package for two including accommodations, breakfast and one cocktail daily per person; 990 euros; a rooftop suite with a Jacuzzi is 1,750 euros. Reserve at events.portoheli@nikkibeachhotels.com.

Cuba

Access Trips has a seven-night [Cuba Culinary Tour](#) from Aug. 13 to 20, which includes stays in [Havana](#) and the city of Trinidad. Travelers will visit a produce market, a fish market, a tobacco farm and an organic produce farm, where they will learn about local farming techniques. Cooking lessons at paladares (privately owned restaurants) and classes on making mojitos and daiquiris are also part of the trip. From \$3,490 a person including accommodations, most meals and all activities and transportation. [Book at 800-567-9400](#) or by emailing info@accesstrips.com.