

# Backroads of Door County lead to surprises, solitude

Page 4



JAY JONES/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**In which state is Kings Mountain National Military Park located?**  
GeoQuiz answer, Page 5

## Chicago Tribune TRAVEL

# Embracing 'bleisure' trips

More travelers, especially millennials, turning business trips into mini-vacations

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATHERINE RODEGHIER**  
Tribune Newspapers

Business travelers often bemoan work trips, but a new breed of employees embraces them.

These road warriors view a business trip not as drudgery but as an opportunity to tack on a few days of leisure to see a new city, try a new experience.

So-called bleisure trips continue to grow in number and will for years to come, according to a survey of 640 international travelers by BridgeStreet Global Hospitality. In its Bleisure Report 2014, 60 percent of survey respondents had taken bleisure trips, and nearly half said they brought a significant other or family member along.

The always-connected millennial generation leads the bleisure trend. A whopping 94 percent of young travelers surveyed in the report said they were "more than" or "equally" likely to take a bleisure trip in the next five years. Millennials, the largest segment of the U.S. workforce, are less likely to be married than Gen Xers and boomers at their age, according to a report by the Pew Research Center, and are more apt to put off parenthood. With fewer obligations at home, millennials are more willing to take business trips, even at a moment's notice. Tuned in to technology, they get comfortable in unfamiliar surroundings by using apps and social media to navigate, make connections, choose restaurants and track down opportunities for experiential travel.

Business travel is expected to grow by 7 percent internationally and 2 percent domestically this year, predicts the Global Business Travel Association.

If you want to mix work and play, here are a few bleisure travel ideas pairing a business city with a leisure-travel destination:

**Las Vegas and Havasu Canyon:** Grand Canyon National Park gets millions of visitors a year, but you won't find crowds in this remote arm of the canyon on the Havasupai Indian Reservation. The tribe strictly controls access to about 20,000 people a year. You'll need four hours to drive from Las Vegas over back roads to the rim, where you'll park and pull on sturdy hiking boots. In the village of Supai, 8 miles down, you can overnight at a lodge or push on 2 more miles to the campground (make your reservations well in advance). The trail begins with stony switchbacks, levels out into dry washes and passes aquamarine waterfalls. Havasu Falls pours 100 feet over a surreal rock face worthy of



Campers in Havasu Canyon cool off in pools and streams of blue-green water. The remote canyon in northern Arizona is accessible by car from Las Vegas, but the Havasupai Indian tribe limits visitors to about 20,000 a year.



Jantar Mantar in Jaipur, India, is an old astronomical observation site using 20 oversized stone instruments.

Salvador Dali into a wide pool perfect for swimming. Wimping out about the climb back up? Book a helicopter to pop you to the top of the rim in a matter of minutes. You also can make the trip on horseback. [www.havasuwaterfalls.net/index.html](http://www.havasuwaterfalls.net/index.html)

**Zurich and Zermatt:** The Matterhorn ranks high among Switzerland's must-sees. It looms over Zermatt, tucked in the Alps about a 3 1/2-hour journey south of the country's biggest city. Take the train. If you drive, be prepared to park on the outskirts and catch the local train for the final leg to Zermatt, where cars are banned. Catch glimpses of the iconic peak with a walk around the village, stopping to listen to alpenhorn performers in cobblestone



The Matterhorn punctuates the sky above Zermatt, Switzerland, where views are great and cars are banned.

squares. For a closer look, ride a cogwheel railway to the Gornergrat plateau for a view of more than two dozen summits surpassing 14,000 feet. Not content just to gawk? Ski slopes are open year-round. Climbers scale the Matterhorn in summer, though tombstones in the village cemetery are a grim reminder that this ascent is not for novices. [www.zermatt.ch/en](http://www.zermatt.ch/en)

**Miami and Florida Keys:** Rent a car — a convertible maybe? — and point it south to pick up the Overseas Highway. This 113-mile stretch of U.S. Route 1, with 42 bridges linking islands and islets of the Florida Keys, offers a buffet of experiences. Begin the countdown in Key Largo at mileposts 108 to 90 with

snorkeling or scuba diving at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. At Islamorada, mile 90 to 63, hand-feed tarpon at Robbie's Marina. Rent kayaks at Big Pine Key, mile 47 to 4, to paddle along a fringe of mangroves, before choosing an entree from the main dishes surrounding mile marker 0 in Key West. Go ahead, be a tourist, posing for cheesy photos at the buoy marking the southernmost point in the continental U.S. Check out the six-toed cats at Ernest Hemingway's home and the buskers who show up at sunset on Mallory Square. Save room for the Key lime pie. [www.fla-keys.com](http://www.fla-keys.com)

**New Delhi and Jaipur:** The "Pink City" of Rajasthan, about 160 miles southwest of India's capital,



A visitor at the Maker's Mark distillery, one of nine on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, dips his bottle in hot wax.

takes its name from the hue of buildings in its old quarter where you experience the time warp between modernity and the reign of the maharajahs. Walk amid the chaos of the colorful Tripolia Bazaar, peek through the perforated screens of the Hawa Mahal, or "Wind Palace," and wander among nearly 20 oversized stone astronomical instruments in the Jantar Mantar. At the City Palace museum, you can whip out your phone to shoot the world's largest silver objects, urns that once carried water from the Ganges. Take a taxi to the Amber Fort or ride through the gate on an elephant. [www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in)

**Louisville and Kentucky Bourbon Trail:** Ninety-five

percent of the world's bourbon comes from Kentucky, much of it from nine distilleries on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail winding between Louisville and Lexington. Pick up a passport at your first distillery, start sippin' and get it stamped as you make your way along the trail. Allow three to four days to visit all nine. At Maker's Mark, you can dip your bottle in hot wax to form a seal. The Jim Beam tour visits its Mash House small-scale distillery, where you can lend a hand making a barrel of Knob Creek. No designated driver? Look into options at Mint Julep Tours and R&R Limousine Service. [www.kybourbontrail.com](http://www.kybourbontrail.com)

**Auckland and Hawke's Bay:** Forty wineries offer tastings in this sun-kissed region on New Zealand's North Island, 280 miles south of the Kiwis' biggest city. Most of the wines aren't sold outside the country, so fill a glass at Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest winery, and keep your fingers crossed at Church Road Winery for a sip of the rare Tom McDonald reds named for a local legend. Architecture buffs go to Napier with its 140 art deco buildings. Cape Kidnappers, a headland on Hawke's Bay, draws golfers to its course rated among the best in the world. If you visit the cape from October to April, Gannet Safaris will bring you to a comical colony of the noisy black-and-white gannet birds. [www.hawkesbaynz.com](http://www.hawkesbaynz.com)

*Katherine Rodeghier is a freelance writer.*

### MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND PACKAGE

Friday, May 6–Sunday, May 8, 2016

Treat mom to a magical weekend at Grand Hotel. The package includes accommodations, a full breakfast and five-course dinner daily. Also included are evening receptions, free golf green fees on The Jewel (cart fee required), and Mother's Day Grand Luncheon Buffet. You can also pamper her with a beauty treatment at Astor's Salon and Spa, bike or hike Mackinac Island, and shop the hotel's unique shops or those in downtown Mackinac.

Standard: \$815 per room • Lakeview: \$1,165 per room (up to 5 persons)  
Extend your stay Sunday, May 8 for \$209 per room, per night.



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### AAA MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PACKAGE

Saturday, May 28–Monday, May 30, 2016

This weekend of island fun includes accommodations, a full breakfast and five-course dinner daily, live music, free golf on The Jewel (cart fee required), evening receptions and complimentary children's programs. Children 11 and under stay and eat for free. Relax in a rocking chair on

the world's longest porch or take a bike ride and explore everything the island has to offer.

Standard: \$865 per couple • Lakeview: \$1,225 per couple  
Extend your stay Monday, May 30 and/or Tuesday, May 31 for \$209 per room, per night.

*All rates subject to additional fees.*