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Holiday travel in 2024

Holiday season travel is popular in the U.S. this year—whether to visit family, escape chilly climates, embrace snowy destinations, or all of the above.

Intent to travel during the 2024 holiday season is comparable to 2023, with 46% of consumers planning a trip, compared to 47% last year. Of these travelers, 55% are men and 42% are women.

Among those planning to travel, the biggest spenders, ranked in order, are:

1. Millennials (up 12% from 2023)
2. Gen Z (up 42% over last year)
3. Gen X (down 21% from last year)
4. Baby Boomers (up 2%).

People are generally less stressed about travel

disruptions this year. This may be attributed, in part, to a new rule by the U.S. Department of Transportation that requires U.S.-based airlines to give passengers automatic cash refunds when a flight is significantly delayed or canceled.

The rule went into effect ahead of the upcoming holiday travel season. Airlines must now automatically process a refund if a flight is “canceled or significantly changed, and [passengers] do not accept the significantly changed flight, rebooking on an alternative flight, or alternative compensation.” The rule also requires refunds for delayed or missing checked baggage and pre-paid in-flight services that become unavailable.

Still, consumers are keeping budgets top of their mind. Fifty-six percent of travelers are opting to stay with family and friends this year as a cost-saving option, up 11% from 2023.

-Kelly Rosenfeld, [Travel Age West](#); David Matthews, [New York Daily News](#)

Holiday airfare and airline miles: 2024 analysis

Airlines often raise their airfare prices during periods of peak demand, including around Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. You can leverage credit card rewards and airline loyalty programs to help offset these higher costs.

However, using your miles for peak-season holiday flights doesn't always get you the best value for those miles.

Most U.S. frequent flyer programs now price their award flights more dynamically (meaning price varies). The average all-in value of airline miles for nonholiday travel is 1.39 cents per mile. Conversely, using your points or miles during Thanksgiving decreases the value by 6.47%. During Christmas, there is a 3.6% decrease in value.

For those looking to use their frequent flyer miles over the holidays, these 5 opportunities have good deals for points and miles:

1. **Visit New York City to attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.** A United flight from Charlotte to New York City can be booked using Air Canada points for 20,000 miles roundtrip.
2. **Visit Chicago for holiday spirit.** Travelers can book a flight with American Airlines from Philadelphia to Chicago using Alaska miles at just 14,500 miles roundtrip.
3. **Relax in Cancun.** JetBlue points are a better deal than miles from another program. Additionally, many hotels in Cancun offer a traditional Thanksgiving meal.
4. **Vacation in Florida.** There are multiple Delta flights with nonstop Atlanta to Miami trips at 22,000 miles roundtrip. Similar (but fewer) deals exist with American Airlines.
5. **Fly to France.** November is a beautiful time in Paris, with mild weather, smaller crowds, and holiday decorations. As of late, there is an Air Canada flight from Washington, D.C. to Paris that costs a

comparatively low 86,700 points (plus \$168 in taxes and fees).

-Nick Ewen and Summer Hull, [The Points Guy](#); Jennifer Yellin, [Points Path](#)

Several destinations are honoring Native American Cultural Heritage Month with cultural events.

Along with being the month of Thanksgiving, November is Native American Cultural Heritage Month. Cities across America are hosting events that amplify the importance of Native American cultural and historical contributions to the United States.

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. will present a multi-media short film, "Lakota and the Wild West Shows," which will share recalled stories of Native Americans who performed in Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows.

The Milwaukee Public Museum is celebrating with a number of activities and events. Museum educators will lead hands-on activities that will teach visitors about the tribes of Wisconsin and the important work of cultivating wild rice, maple syrup, and white corn.

Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado has over 4,000 archaeological sites embedded with 700 years of Native American history. The National Park Service and its partners preserve these remnants and invite visitors to honor the traditions, languages, and contributions of Indigenous people.

-Sam Walls, [Sierra News Online](#); Amy Schwabe, [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#); Amy Kehs, [Smithsonian Magazine](#); Dennis Zotigh, [Google Arts and Culture](#)



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