



Summer Fun



Summer days are here again with adventures and activities abound.

Check out summertime tips & entertainment ideas – there's so much to see and do!

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Types of lodging accommodations



When seeking accommodations for vacations or business trips, travelers have a number of lodging options to choose from. Choosing the right accommodation in any given situation involves understanding the differences between your options.

Motel. Motels are budget-friendly options geared toward motorists. As the American highway system was developed in the early 20th century, motels fulfilled the cross-country traveler's need for roadside stops. In fact, the "mo" in "motel" refers to "motor." Motels are built for short stays and tend to have rooms that open up into parking lots for ease of use.

Hotel. Hotels cater to people

who will be staying a few nights. They often feature spacious lobbies and some amenities, such as swimming pools or exercise rooms. Some hotels have restaurants attached to them.

Hotels are among the most popular accommodations. According to the travel resource Dauntless Jaunter, hotels are categorized according to a "star" rating system.

- One-star: This is a bare essentials hotel that offers just the basics with no extra bells and whistles.

- Two-star: A two-star hotel is usually reasonably priced and has minimal services and amenities and a neutral decor.

- Three-star: This hotel is meant to offer an above-average stay as far as options and amenities.

Modern conveniences can be expected at three-star properties.

- Four- and five-star: These hotels offer deluxe service and guests can expect luxury amenities and a wide range of offerings at these properties. However, they also can expect to pay more for accommodations.

Extended stay/efficiency suites.

Extended stay properties offer competitive rates for travelers who will need to remain at the hotel for a longer period of time than the average trip or desire more room. Extended stay rooms and efficiency suites are large and have features like small apartments, including kitchenettes and living areas.

Hostel.

Hostels are geared toward the traveler who needs a place to stay on a limited budget. Hostels often offer communal accommodations with shared rooms and bathroom facilities at very low costs, according to the hospitality resource Professional Connector.

Bed and breakfast.

Bed and breakfast establishments typically are converted family homes or large guest houses that

feature a number of bedrooms. Owners rent the rooms to guests, who eat breakfast in the dining room, sometimes alongside other guests. It's a communal experience and one that lends a more family feel to traveling.

Inn.

Inns usually are smaller than chain hotels and tend to be family-owned. They offer charm and cozy appeal to guests, but that may come at the expense of in-room amenities.

Airbnb.

A relative newcomer to the accommodations arena, an Airbnb is a residential property that hosts renters, often on a short-term basis. These may be private apartments, condos, homes or vacation properties that owners temporarily sublet to travelers.

While Airbnb is the name of a registered rental marketplace company (airbnb.com), the term often is used for any property that follows the same model, including options from companies like Vrbo and HomeAway. Airbnb is an abbreviation that stands for "air mattress bed and breakfast."

Traveling can be customized based on the type of accommodations travelers select.

Pool safety measures to put into effect



A backyard pool can be a wonderful summer oasis. Swimming immediately cools people off on hot and humid days and even provides thorough exercise that works many different muscles in the body. And summer revelers know that swimming and splashing in the pool is an entertaining activity for people of all ages.

Though pools are great summer spaces, one downside of pool usage is the potential for drowning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that, every year in the United States, there are an estimated 3,960 fatal unintentional drownings – an average of 11 drowning deaths per day. In addition, around 8,080 nonfatal drownings occur. It's important to note that many of these incidents are unrelated to pool usage, as boating and even bathtub accidents contribute to drowning as well. But a 2020 review of 2,213 unintentional immersion deaths and other water-related injury deaths in Canada by the Canadian Red Cross found that immersion deaths were most likely to occur when swimming and wading.

Children ages one to four, males and people with seizure disorders or other medical conditions like autism are among those at a higher risk for drowning.

Pools are fun, but it's a great responsibility to keep all swimmers safe. The following are some pool safety measures to put into effect.

- Keep water sanitary. Make sure pool water is chemically balanced so that it is comfortable to swim in and will not harbor any pathogens that can make swimmers ill. The pool equipment company Pahlen says the ideal water pH is 7.4 because that is the same as the pH in human eyes and mucous membranes and it also supports good

chlorine disinfection.

The free chlorine content of a pool can range from 0.5 to 1.6 to keep it sanitary.

A quality testing kit can help pool owners balance water.

- Learn your local ordinances. Local ordinances will spell out which precautionary measures are required by law for people who have a backyard pool. These often include a fenced yard, a fence around inground pools that are at least four feet high, self-latching gates and/or pool ladders that can be locked or closed when the pool isn't in use.

- Rely on non-slip surfaces. The pool environment can be wet and slippery. Utilizing materials like non-slip deck surfaces or rougher concrete finishes around pools can help reduce some slips and falls. The pool resource Poolonomics says people should be instructed to avoid running near or around the pool.

- Inspect water returns and drains. PoolSafety.gov warns that hair, limbs, jewelry or bathing suits can get stuck in a drain or suction opening in a pool or spa.

Broken or missing drain covers should be replaced immediately and no swimming should occur until the issue is remedied.

- Install other barriers. Barriers, alarms and pool covers can save lives and prevent access to pool water when the pool area is not in use.

- Learn how to swim and perform CPR. Families can take swimming lessons to become better swimmers. Learning how to perform CPR on adults and children can save lives. Courses are available at many hospitals and community centers or through the Red Cross.

Swimming pools are welcome additions to yards. Safety is vital when around water.

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