Several years ago, the term “staycation” was coined to describe the rising number of people who vacation in their own backyard – staying close to home while spending time away from their daily routines. A new survey released last year from Enterprise, however, reveals that the “staycation” trend is giving way in popularity to short road trips. According to Enterprise’s “Weekend Getaway Survey,” nearly two-thirds of individuals who plan on taking weekend getaways will hit the road as opposed to staying in their own neighborhoods.

That’s one of several findings from the Enterprise survey, which analyzed consumers’ weekend travel plans.

“The weekend getaway is something that many of our customers really look forward to. They’re driving to see friends and family, attend sporting events, visit a new bed and breakfast, and so much more. A weekend away is a time for them to escape – to reset and recharge before jumping back into another week,” said Steve Short, vice president at Enterprise. “With this in mind, we thought it’d be fun to take a look at the outlook for weekend getaways: Where are people going, who are they going with and what are they taking with them?”

“Some of the results were surprising, but also very encouraging in the sense that so many people intend to take weekends away – nearly 8 in 10 Americans are planning at least one weekend trip,” Short continued. “We see that as further proof that taking time away to explore what we’re passionate about and be with the ones who matter most just makes our lives richer and better.”

When consumers were asked about the weekend trip they are most excited about taking in 2017, their responses included the following:

HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

- There is no one-size-fits-all weekend getaway destination. Twenty-four percent are planning to visit a major city, 19 percent are planning to visit the beach and 14 percent are planning to visit the mountains. Other destinations include a small town (9%), the lake (5%) and the countryside (5%).
- Repeat destinations seem to be preferred in 2017 – only three in 10 plan to go somewhere new on their weekend getaway.

“WE ARE FAM-I-LY!”

- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of parents taking a weekend getaway plan to take the kids with them.

RELAXING IS A PRIORITY

- When asked to choose a word that best describes their weekend getaway, “relaxing” ranked first, with 39 percent of respondents selecting that word.
- Aligning with the relaxation theme, the top weekend getaway activities this year include: “Enjoying new restaurants, bars or pubs” (44%) and “de-stressing” (38%).

THE THRILL IS GONE?

- When asked to choose a word that best describes their weekend getaway, only seven percent of respondents selected “romantic.”

ROAD TRIPS RULE

- The preferred mode of transportation for weekend getaways is the car (74%).
- Asked what feature they want in a car to take on their weekend getaway, 55 percent chose “comfort,” followed by “cruise control” (43%). Only 14 percent desire “luxury” in their weekend getaway vehicle.

SO LONG, MOM AND DAD!

- While the “Sandwich Generation” may be on the rise, travelers aren’t including mom and dad in their weekend getaways. Only 6 percent plan to travel with their parents.

PUPPY STAY HOME

- Only two in 10 dog owners plan to take their pets on their weekend getaways.

PAYING YOUR WAY

- Sixty-one percent of weekend getaway takers plan to spend less than $500, while 39 percent plan to spend between $500-$1,000.

Information for this article was provided by Enterprise. For more information about Enterprise, visit www.enterprise.com.
Convenient Access to Explore the Region’s Finest Activities from a Picturesque Location

Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel

Set in the rolling foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel offers travelers a picturesque location from which to explore the greater Los Angeles area.

Explore the stunning beaches of Malibu or experience some of Southern California’s finest golfing opportunities during your stay with us. Our hotel is also located near popular points of interest like Pepperdine University, the Ronald Reagan Library & Museum and Thousand Oaks.

Retreat to Sheraton Agoura Hills’ recently refreshed accommodations after a day of exploration and sample delicious California cuisine at Share restaurant or an expertly prepared cocktail at Liquid Lounge. Throughout your visit, you’ll enjoy thoughtful amenities like a heated outdoor pool, a Sheraton Fitness Center and a modern business center.

During your stay at Sheraton Agoura Hills, explore premier LA, Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks shopping hot spots just minutes from the hotel. Experience some quality retail therapy at the Oaks Shopping Center featuring over 120 retailers, The Promenade at Westlake, Topanga Plaza Shopping Center, the San Fernando Valley’s premier shopping destination with over 250 stores and restaurants and Camarillo Premium Outlets with over 160 of the top designer stores all in one location.

Learn more about the Sheraton Agoura Hills by visiting SheratonAgouraHills.com

It’s Easier than Ever to Kayak at Channel Islands Harbor with the EZ Kayak Launch

Launching a kayak in the Channel Islands Harbor is much easier these days thanks to the installation of a new “EZ Kayak Launch” on the Ventura County Day Dock near the boat launch ramp. Visitors can access the kayak launch ramp by entering the parking area at Curlew Way and Victoria Avenue.

The installation of the kayak launch ramp expands access to the Harbor waters for kayakers. Kayakers may also continue to launch from Hobie Beach, the launch ramp, and day docks around the Harbor.

“We couldn’t be more pleased to increase access for the growing community of kayakers,” said Lyn Kriger, Ventura County Harbor Department director. “This flexible, easy-to-use launch makes getting into a kayak easier for kayakers, from beginners to experts.”

Harbor Department maintenance staff installed the EZ Kayak Launch last year. The launch ramp features integrated paddle notches that make launching and docking safe and easy; a V-shaped entry which centers a kayak for consistent, stable, and confident launches; and a wider format which allows visitors to launch kayaks and canoes.

The Channel Islands Harbor is a gem on the California coast between Port Hueneme and Ventura. It was built as a recreational harbor in the 1960s and 1970s on 310 acres of land and water, with approximately 2,150 boat slips, as well as marine facilities, restaurants, sportfishing facilities, chandleries and shops.

The Harbor is divided into three areas (west, east and peninsula) served by separate public roads, with each area providing different services. The west side consists of marinas, a linear park, restaurants, residential development and retail businesses. The peninsula is dominated by hotel development, apartments and condominiums. The east side is primarily commercial and serves boaters by offering boat yards, a marine supply store, boat sales, law enforcement, administration and search and rescue facilities.

The Harbor is owned and operated by the County of Ventura. The majority of the Harbor is operated by businesses that have been granted long-term ground leases by the Board of Supervisors.

Learn more about the Channel Islands by visiting channelislandsharbor.org.
Lancaster is the hub of the Antelope Valley and home to the beauty and clear blue skies of the California High Desert. Home to the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve, Musical Road, and the Aerospace Walk of Honor, Lancaster is no longer the locals’ “best kept secret.” Lancaster has grown into a bustling urban destination, offering visitors a array of outdoor experiences with the backdrop of four seasons, local shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

There are so many unique things to do in Lancaster that you’ll be reaching for your calendar to plan a return visit!

Here are some examples of the many adventures and experiences to be had in beautiful Lancaster:

WILLOW SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

Willow Springs International Motorsports Park is a 600-acre complex of eight racetracks embracing nearly every conceivable motor sports discipline. The park is located just north of Lancaster, California and about an hour away from Los Angeles. With its substantial elevation changes and high average speeds, Willow Springs is one of the fastest and most challenging tracks in the country. Also known as the Fastest Road in the West, this track is one of the safest road courses in the world.

With its long and short straight-aways, tight corners, and long sweeping turns, there aren’t many road courses in the world with spectator viewing like Willow Springs. Guests can see almost the entire racecourse from just about anywhere, including the many trackside camping areas. Spectator amenities include two full-service diners with full bars, a well-stocked gift shop, plenty of spectators seating and parking modern rest rooms, and outstanding viewing areas. Large viewing areas are available for RV parking and camping, including several full hookups for trailers and motor homes. Racer amenities include several enclosed garages available for use by competitors and testers, with racing fuel and tire services available at the track daily.

BOEING PLAZA

The Boeing Plaza is a designated area on the corner of Lancaster BLVD and Sierra Hwy that highlights some of the greatest aviators known to the aerospace industry. It is composed of various monuments and tributes to honor these heroes and remember their significant achievements.

The Boeing Plaza also hosts a McDonnell F-4D-25-MC “Phantom II” (AF 64-0952) airplane to add to the aerospace vibe. If seeking a local place to learn more about the aerospace industry and those who have contributed to it, the Boeing Plaza is a great start!

SHAMBALA PRESERVE

Shambala is home to over 40 big cats, including lions, tigers, cougars, black and spotted leopards, servals, bobcats, and Asian leopard cats, who live out their lives at Shambala.

All these beautiful cats have come to the Preserve after confiscation by authorities such as California Fish and Game, the United States Department of Agriculture, the ASCPA, and various Humane Societies. They are from roadside zoos and private citizens who realize that they have purchased an animal that they can no longer handle.

Once an animal is brought to Shambala, it remains here for the rest of its life. As a true sanctuary, we do not buy, breed, sell, trade, or subject our animals to commercial use. Our only purpose is to allow these magnificent animals to live out their lives with love and dignity. Each “Wild One” has the best human, nutritional, medical, emotional, and mental care possible.

A visit to Shambala is an emotional, educational and rewarding experience!

WHERE TO STAY?

When you’re looking for lodging in the Antelope Valley, you simply can’t do better than the hotels of Lancaster. Offering a range of accommodations for both families and business travelers, Destination Lancaster Hotels are sure to provide you with a stay you’ll remember fondly.

Learn more at DestinationLancasterCA.org
AMAZING ACTIVITIES ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER
No need to travel far to find fun this summer. These days, “staycations” are popular ways to keep the family entertained all summer long.

Destination Lancaster, the City’s official Visitors Bureau, offers up a few ideas on how to enjoy your summer close to home.

Holy Cow! We’re 80 Now!
ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR & ALFALFA FESTIVAL
August 17 – 26

Voted Antelope Valley’s Best Event by A.V. Press’ 2018 Reader’s Choice Award, this country-style Fair has been welcoming visitors for 80 summers straight. This year’s hoedown features livestock exhibits, classic carnival games and rides, as well as an endless offering of unique foods.

DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

The Fair is only half the story of the Antelope Valley’s summer celebration. Our Alfalfa Festival honors our many farmers and ranchers who have created a robust agricultural community throughout the decades. Be sure to attend this year’s Rural Olympics and visit the Antelope Valley Rural Museum, located on the fairgrounds. It is open the first and third Saturday, year-round and daily during the Fair. Find out more at www.avmuseum.org.

ENJOY TOP TALENT UNDER THE STARS

Each year, the AV Fair imports some of the best performers from across the nation. A sampling of this season’s lineup includes:

Aug. 17  Chaka Khan and Sheila E.
Aug. 18  Styx
Aug. 20  Chase Rice with Special Guests
         Devin Dawson
Aug. 21  The Fray and Bay Ledges
Aug. 22  Justin Moore and Walker County

For the full schedule of events, visit www.avfair.com.
Learn to be a Straight Shooter

H&W Archery offers classes, practice time, and competitions for archers of all ages. Find your inner Robin Hood or Katniss Everdeen, while enjoying some quality time with the family. Open daily, except Sundays, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. www.hwarchery.com

A Purr-fect Day Trip

Head up to Rosamond and visit The Cat House, technically the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving cats of all sizes and stripes. Unlike a zoo, The Cat House lets you experience feline friends—including tigers, leopards, jaguars, bobcats, lynx, and many more—in an intimate, up-close environment. Open daily, except Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. www.cathouse-fcc.org

Way Out Mystery!

Gather a group and head over to the Greatest Escape for an entertaining evening of finding your way out of a locked room. Hidden clues direct participants to the actions and items required to break loose from jail, escape entrapment, or find the key to setting famous nursery rhyme characters free. Open weekend afternoons and evenings. Reserve your session at www.GreatestEscape.us.

Take a Ride on the Wild Side

X-Game enthusiasts will find new thrills to get the adrenaline pumping at Antelope Valley BMX. While the motorized version may beat them on speed, BMX riders rely solely on pedal power to conquer the many knolls and dips of a challenging dirt track. The sport is open to all ages and genders with youngsters as young as two and veterans aboard classic cruisers competing for their place on the podium. Races are most Monday evenings, with clinics and practice midweek. Visit facebook.com/antelopevalleybmx for the full scoop.

For more ideas on exciting activities in and around Lancaster, visit www.destinationlancasterca.org.
Weekend Getaway Idea for History Buffs

If you are a history buff looking for a weekend getaway, look no further than the Ventura County Coast. Here’s an idea that will enable you to spend two enlightening days exploring Victorian architecture, historic properties and maritime and art museums – with plenty of good food and good wine to keep you going!

DAY ONE
Begin with a tour of Heritage Square in downtown Oxnard for magnificent architecture and luxuriously landscaped gardens. Enjoy lunch at La Dolce Vita, located inside the Square’s restored 1901 farmhouse. Sample some wine across the way at Ranch Ventavo Cellars, inside a historic 1902 Victorian house. (Prefers something casual? Two blocks away, Fresh & Fabulous dishes up soups and sandwiches with retro ambiance inside a restored 1950s Woolworth building.)

Next stop is the Carnegie Art Museum, with an impressive collection of California art. Drive or take a stroll down the tree-lined streets of the Henry T. Oxnard National Register Historic District – 144 homes, including many classic 1920s California bungalow style.

Want to go offshore without leaving the sand? Visit the Channel Islands Maritime Museum and set your sights on replicas of historic ships that have sailed across the globe.

DAY TWO
Kick off Sunday morning with a tour of Olivas Adobe, an 1847 early California ranch style hacienda. Relax and eat lunch at the understatedly elegant Cafe Fiore in downtown Ventura. Afterwards, stroll down the block to the Museum of Ventura County or across the street to Mission San Buenaventura.

Have time for one more stop? Take the Ventura Highway (101 South to the Camarillo Ranch House. The 1892 Queen Anne Victorian style Camarillo Ranch House operates as a house museum, which features rotating exhibits, along with historic home and school tours. The location sponsors annual community events throughout the year, which educate the public about the Ranch’s rich history.

Visit venturacountycoast.com for more great ideas!