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9 Holiday Destinations Where Your Dollar Will Go Far

By Greg Sullivan 10.20.2017

At AFAR, we believe that tourism is the most impactful way to help a destination rebound after disaster strikes. If you're looking to give back this season, consider spending the holidays in a recently affected area. We asked AFAR's pro travel advisors for the best places to book, now.

The past few weeks have been brutal. We've seen devastating hurricanes hit Texas, the Caribbean, and Florida; demonstrations in Barcelona; an earthquake in central Mexico; a mass shooting in Las Vegas; and now, fires in California.

It is obviously so sad for the people who are directly affected by these events. We have previously written about ways to help, and we continue to encourage you to consider giving to charities to support those in need.

I'm writing today to shine the light on another way to help: travel.

Events like these can often cause people to decide not to travel. Even destinations that weren't directly affected get written off because people loosely associate them with wherever the trouble has happened. But travel is the world's biggest industry, providing a livelihood to millions of people. In the aftermath of tragedy,

what people in these communities need is more people visiting, not fewer.

And what better time to visit than the upcoming holidays?

It's not too late to book a trip to places that are as safe and enjoyable as they have always been. Not only will you have a great vacation, you'll be helping those whose lives depend on travelers.

We reached out to the AFAR Travel Advisory Council, some of the world's most informed and connected travel planners, and asked them for their picks for the upcoming holiday season. I encourage you to get inspired and reach out to let them help you book and get the most out of these trips. — Greg Sullivan, AFAR cofounder



Sri Lanka's iconic train was rocked off its rails when a tsunami hit the nation in 2004. Tourism dollars contributed to rebuilding the line.



The Bahamas

“Several Caribbean islands suffered devastating losses caused by Hurricane Irma and Maria, but many others weren’t impacted or recovered within days. There are plenty of wonderful options if you need to revise your Caribbean holiday plans while at the same time help keep the tourism economy alive. A luxurious off-the-radar alternative is Grand Isle Resort & Spa on Great Exuma. This elegant property boasts a mile-long, family-friendly beach; a golf course, spa, and pool; as well as beautifully appointed one- to four-bedroom villas that can accommodate the smallest to the largest family gathering. As an added holiday bonus, surprise your loved ones with the incomparable gift of an opportunity to swim with the pigs at nearby Pig Beach—a holiday memory that they will never forget!” — Judy Perl, President, Judy Perl Worldwide Travel

