

Staycations gaining Popularity

Here's a new travel trend I hadn't heard about and want to share with you: staycationing. What is it? Well, it simply means vacationing at or near home—something many of us do anyway, but now it's all the rage. In the face of soaring gas and airfare prices and maybe even out of concern for the global environment, seems lots of folks around the nation are going nowhere—and having fun!

Going local and going cheap is the new hot idea this summer—think of it as summer camp in your own back yard. And retailers are targeting this trend with lots of “necessities” like outdoor furniture, fabulous décor, summer toys, grills and other items you can use to turn your home into an outdoor retreat. Don't be sucked in—you don't need all that for a good, old-fashioned stay-at-home vacation. Just promise you'll spend time doing fun, relaxing, leisurely activities—not the long list of “to-do's” around the house and yard. Those things can wait.

But if cookouts, camping in the back yard, outdoor games, and trips to the pool aren't your idea of a vacation, expand your focus to our fair state. Take a “trip” to a hotel in Columbus and really explore downtown, German Village and the Short North, visit Amish Country, rent a cabin in Hocking Hills and see if the Old Man is still in his cave, or visit Lake Erie for a long weekend and relax at the beach. Even closer to home is Alum Creek, the Olentangy Indian Caverns, canoeing at the Mohican River, biking trails all over Central Ohio, and don't forget about the Columbus Zoo with it's new water park Zoombezi Bay. The list is endless and doesn't have to involve standing in line at the airport, emptying your wallet or hearing the infamous “Are we there, yet?”

If the goal of your vacation is to take a break from work and spend time with the family, why break the bank and, often, your nerves, to do it? Consider staycationing—just tell the family you all will be so “en vogue!”