



Alex Khoshaba and her dogs, Maggie and Mia practice social distancing at Dogwood Canyon, in Branson, Missouri.

On the Road with Alex

COVID-19: THE 4 Cs OF SUMMER ROAD TRIPPING

In May 2020, Alex Khoshaba took two road trips, to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and Branson, Missouri. She tested the waters for post-pandemic summer travel and shares a few travel tips that she picked up along the way.

COMPETENCE

Educate yourself on the area you are visiting. Is there a resurgence in COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks? Will you be able to practice proper social distancing once you arrive? Are there restrictions on out-of-towners in the state you are visiting? The U.S. National Parks are

implementing procedures that limit the number of visitors allowed in at a given time. Many campsites are 'Reservation Only' until further notice. Do your homework!

Road-Trip Tip One: Consider a trip that helps a struggling small-business or one that makes a positive impact. When visiting the Smoky Mountains, be sure to stop at a distillery for the region's finest bourbon, and a case of hand sanitizer!

.....




Entrance to Roaring Fork Motor Trail, a 5-mile driving loop two miles south of Gatlinburg, Tennessee.



Maggie is loving the pet-friendly cabin accommodations in Branson, Missouri.

CREATIVITY

The time is now to play, “Let’s Make A Deal”. Did you see the perfect property on Airbnb? Reach out to the host. Ask for a three-night stay as opposed to the five-night minimum listed. More than ever before, hosts are willing to bend the rules to secure your reservation. Most home rental sites offer vetted hosts, five-star amenities, and suggestions for local experiences. You may even snag a price break! 

Road-Trip Tip Four: Consider planning your next road trip with a Virtuoso Travel Advisor: Professionals seasoned in finding exclusive destinations, properties, and amenities that cater to your personal preferences. Working with verified hosts on your behalf, a Virtuoso advisor eliminates the guesswork and potential risk often associated with booking an online rental property.

.....

.....

Alexandra Khoshaba is a Travel Advisor at Travelex International, a Virtuoso member agency. She can be reached at 847-519-4822 or alexk@travelexinternational.com.

CONTROL

Be mindful to control as many aspects of your trip as you possibly can. Be vigilant in taking abundant precautions to keep loved ones safe this summer. Load up on sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, cleaning supplies, and paper products prior to leaving home. Be sure to print out or buy road maps and plan stops along the way to limit interactions with others in areas of high risk. Depending on how far the journey, consider packing a cooler to bring your own food and drinks. Make sure to stock up on medicine and first aid supplies; this goes for pets, too!

Road-Trip Tip Two: Love’s Truck Stops have fenced-in dog parks for your furry friends! Dogs and humans alike are grateful to stretch their legs in the off-leash environment.

.....

COMMUNICATION

Call hotels and rental companies in advance to inquire as to the current operating procedures. Ask questions you want answers to. “Are ALL employees absolutely required to wear a mask”? This type of questioning often produces a more honest response. Investigate options for contact-free check-in, housekeeping and sanitation practices, indoor dining restrictions, and resort occupancy to get the full scope of how seriously a property is taking the situation.

Road-Trip Tip Three: Be aware of your surroundings while on your trip. Is resort staff wearing masks and gloves? Does housekeeping change gloves between room cleanings? What is the occupancy rate at the hotel like? If visiting a rental property, ask when the last guests checked out. Any question that gauges your chance of potential exposure is a great question to ask!



New accommodations completed this summer in Branson, Missouri. Perfect for social distancing with the whole family!