

# How to Create an Affordable Staycation if COVID-19 Has Ruined Your Travel Plans



Travel has become significantly more complicated because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries won't allow visitors without a negative PCR test, for example, and airlines have cut many routes in light of decreased demand. Even if travel is possible, you may want to avoid the risk that comes with crowded airports and packed planes.

If your travel plans were ruined because of coronavirus, don't despair! You can still enjoy a mini-break from the real world with a staycation. Find a [cool local accommodation](#) like The Nines in Portland, and prepare to be a tourist in your own hometown. This guide provides tips on how to arrange an affordable yet fun adventure.

## **Find an accommodation for your staycation.**

If you're planning a staycation, you might be thinking about foregoing accommodation costs and simply staying in your home. When you have reminders of the "real world" in front of you, it's hard to unwind, however. You don't want to see your work desk or piles of laundry when you're trying to relax. Plus, [changing your environment](#) can actually trigger positive changes in the brain and leave you more refreshed. Book a local hotel, prioritizing those that have upped their [commitment to cleaning](#) in light of COVID-19.

## **Do your research on local tourist attractions.**

Before you pack your weekend bag and head to your accommodation, look into local tourist attractions. [Look up](#) popular hotspots near you. You may be able to save money on attractions by using sites like Groupon. Also make sure to compare prices at different times of the day or week. Want to save on a museum? Many offer reduced-rate days during the week. Need to skimp on food? [Check out apps](#) like Too Good to Go.

### **Take photos wherever you go.**

You're on vacation. Act like it! Bring your camera or mobile phone with you wherever you go and make sure to take lots of photos to commemorate the event. One day you might look back at snaps of your COVID-19 staycation and smile. Take your travel photography to the next level with [these tips](#) from National Geographic. They have guidelines on shooting everything from friends to monuments.

### **Include retail therapy on the agenda.**

Your staycation is all about minimizing stress and avoiding burnout. This is especially important after the tough times brought on by COVID-19. Carve out time for self care in your staycation schedule. Treat yourself to some shopping to get started. According to Psychology Today, "retail therapy" is a [real thing](#) and can boost your mood. If you're on a budget, you can do your shopping online. Many big brands have internet deals. [American Eagle](#) has coupons and cashback offers online, for example.

### **Make time for physical and mental self care.**

Of course, your self care routine should go beyond shopping. Plan activities designed to help alleviate stress. Yoga is a great option. It has many physical benefits, such as relieving back pain. It can also help you [calm your mind](#), thanks to the deliberate movements and concentrated breathing it requires. Yoga is also cheap. All you need is a mat to practice. You can find great free yoga classes led by [professional instructors](#) online.

### **Send postcards for fun souvenirs.**

Your staycation will be more fun if you treat it like a real vacation. It's all about getting in the tourist mindset that takes you away from everyday stressors. Make the most of it by getting postcards to send friends or family, even if they live right up the street. This is also a fun surprise for people who may be cooped up at home due to COVID-19 restrictions. Everybody loves mail. For a more personal touch, transform your photos into custom postcards using [online tools](#) like Zazzle.

While COVID-19 may change your vacation plans, it doesn't have to ruin them entirely. Hopefully, the above guide has inspired you to take the time to treat yourself to a [staycation at The Nines](#) and rediscover your hometown. Call 503-222-9996 to book.

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