

Arthur Frommer ONLINE

Comments, opinion, and advice from the founder of Frommer's Travel Guides



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[To Do Some Long-Range Vacation Planning, I've Compiled a List of My 10 Favorite Travel Destinations](#)

Posted by [Arthur Frommer](#) at 12/28/2011 10:02 AM EST

To me, the leisure enjoyed during the holiday season is a perfect time in which to plan future vacations. And so I've compiled a list of my own favorite destinations, of which there are 10:

1) Sanibel Island, Florida: Off the west coast of the Sunshine State, a few miles from Ft. Myers, is this idyllic haven of white-sand beaches, condos whose seafront apartments are available for weekly rentals, excellent restaurants, good shopping--and most important, the Ding Darling Nature Preserve, visited by thousands of birds of every species, who bask in the sun after diving for fish, and are one of the great natural sights of wildlife in America.

2) The Island of Bali, in Indonesia. A Hindu outpost in a Muslim nation, it is inhabited by some of the most gracious people on earth, who invite you to witness their religious processions, wedding ceremonies and joyous funerals. Making a base in the village of Ubud in the central highlands (which I greatly prefer to the beach areas of Bali, heavily visited by Australian surfers), I enjoy one of the cheapest vacations on earth, and yet one that is a profound cultural experience, supplemented by shopping expeditions to the arts and crafts shops of skilled artisans in the other central villages that surround Ubud.

3) Paris, France: I can never get enough of this glorious capital, whose beauty has been so well captured in Woody Allen's recent "Midnight in Paris" film. To me, Paris is on the frontier of virtually every subject I care about: cuisine (its restaurants and open-air markets are legendary), art (its museums and galleries are countless), theater (numerous playhouses and concert halls), life of the mind (its newspapers, colleges and forums are an endless source of new solutions), and history. Its residents, contrary to a popular misunderstanding, are actually quite friendly; and its prices are reasonable to the tourist who takes the time to research the options.