



# How to...

## DID YOU KNOW?

A study found that about 63% of Americans have taken a staycation.



# Explore your own town

**Acting like a tourist in the place where you live can be a fun adventure.**

It's easy to get so busy in your daily life that you barely notice the fascinating world where you live. Taking time to get to know your own town or city can help you learn about its heritage and see your surroundings in a new light. With the weather outside warming up, now is a good time to go exploring with a trusted adult. Here's how to get started.

### Pretend you're a tourist

Many times, when you live in a place, you never really explore some of the local highlights that a visitor might. Start by asking yourself this question: If I had a friend coming to town who had never been here before, where would I suggest they go? Maybe there's a historic building you can tour, a nice park that you could hike in, or a new ice cream store you've been wanting to try.

### Consider local attractions

Do some research online and talk to an adult about what sights are within a close drive. Again, try to think about where you'd go if you were traveling to your city. A local museum or zoo might have a new exhibit you haven't seen since the last time you visited. If you're more

adventurous, you might head to a state park for a hike or see if there's a zip line course nearby. You can also find out whether any TV shows or movies have been filmed near you and visit the location. Check out sites like [movie-locations.com](http://movie-locations.com) and [moviemaps.org](http://moviemaps.org).

### Seek out a guided tour

With an adult's supervision, look up walking tours for a whole new way to explore your city. Some cities offer walking tours focused on a theme, like food or local parks. (In New York City, for example, there are pizza tours.) You can also search for free self-guided walking tours in your area. Another option: More than 300 US cities have Segway tours, which can be a fun way to explore far and wide.



**Spend quality time near home.**

### Take a photography walk

Another way to see where you live with fresh eyes is to go exploring with your camera. Pick a theme for your photos, whether it's architecture, local waterways, or birds and other wildlife in your area. These things make your city stand apart from the others—and at the end of the day, you can look back on all your adventures close to home.

## Virtual vacations



Here are three ways to tour the globe without leaving home.

**Travel abroad** You can take a virtual walking tour of more than 100 of the world's cities—like London, England (above)—at [virtualvacation.us/walk](http://virtualvacation.us/walk).

**Visit a museum** See famous paintings like the *Mona Lisa* up close as you virtually visit the Louvre Museum in Paris, France at [tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Louvre](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Louvre).

**Go underwater** The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Australia, is the world's largest coral reef system. See dolphins, manta rays, and more in the series of videos at [tinyurl.com/TWJUS-GreatBarrier](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-GreatBarrier).