

HOLIDAY STRATEGY GUIDE

Marketing Strategies That Will Top Your Holiday List



The winter holidays mark big travel days, whether folks travel to see family and friends or take the time for a jet-setting vacation away from home.

Last year, AAA estimated that over 112 million people would travel "50 miles or more away from home from December 23 to January" with over **90%** of travelers expected to travel by car and **6.5%** by air.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the holiday season, travel is making a comeback. In fact, 1 in 5 U.S. adults say that leisure travel is a top budget priority in 2023.<sup>2</sup>

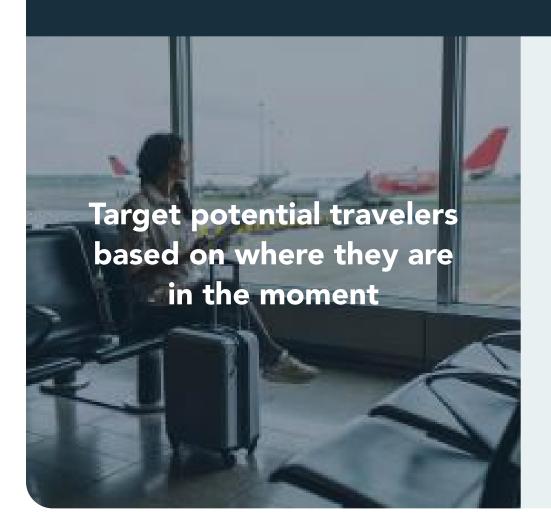


# **Destination ROI**

In a survey from American Express, **7 out of 10** people polled say that they are planning trips three to six months ahead of their travels<sup>4</sup>, so now is the time to get in front of key audiences to influence where they choose to take the PTO.

What are some of the key real-world behaviors that marketers can tap into for a more precise reach?

## **Real-Time Moments**



### **Proximity**

Reach travelers in real-time when they are near your location to influence incremental visits.

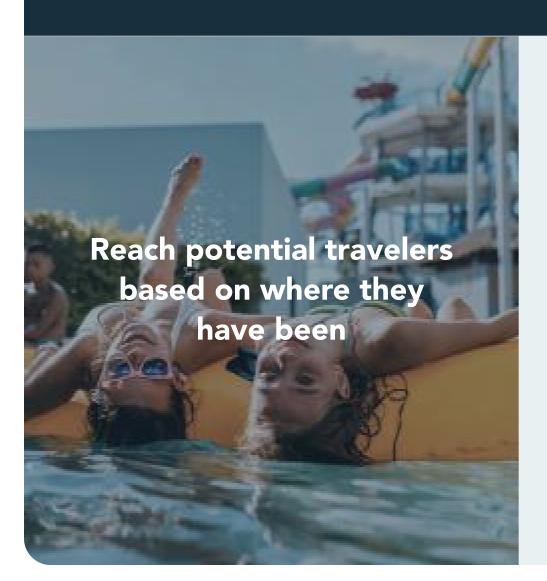
#### Neighborhoods

Maximize your media spend by focusing your ad delivery to key trade areas with high affinity to your locations. These distinct geo blocks ensure that your ads are served in areas with lookalike audiences.

#### Geofencing

Trigger your ads to be served once a key target audience member crosses the threshold of a specific location, whether it's yours, your competitors, or a point of interest relevant to your business, i.e. a nearby landmark.

## **Past Behaviors**



## **Location Audience**

Target audiences with past visitation to business categories or specific brands that align with your offering. This can include your business, airports, specific hotel chains, and more.

#### **Behavioral Audience**

Focus your efforts on key personas built from GroundTruth's 1<sup>st</sup> party data, such as Leisure Travelers, Business Travelers, International Travelers, Entertainment Enthusiasts, Casino Goers, Spa Enthusiasts, and more.

### **Custom Audiences**

Customize your audience based on the key attributes that matter most to you. You can layer in 1st party or 3rd party audiences, GroundTruth audiences, past purchases, and more.

# **Weather Conditions**



#### **Forecast** Curr

# **Current Temperature** Weather Conditions

Lean into weather patterns for more dynamic media plans. You can tailor your messaging based on the current or forecasted weather conditions, powered by top-rated weather app, WeatherBug.

This means you can effectively reach potential snowbirds looking for sandy beaches, or people who live in areas that tend to have warmer holidays and influence them to hit the slopes.

# Apply our Learnings & Strategies to a Full-Funnel Marketing Campaign







Desktop



Mobile



Direct Mail





# Looking for the best creative this holiday season? Here are some tips from the creative experts at GroundTruth:

- Relevant images: Use relevant images compared to your target audience and specific to the holiday.
- Keep your message simple: Focus on the key message and keep the copy simple. We found copy with 5 words or less performed 13% better in CTR.
- Create a sense of urgency: Use limited time offers or promotions. Dynamic countdown creatives helps set a reminder and encourage users to take action on deals or purchase products before the holiday.
- **Leverage your product benefits:** Highlight your unique proposition and what sets you apart from the competition.
- Offer solutions: Identify what your target audience's challenges are and position your product or service as a solution.
- **Leverage user-generated content:** Social media posts and reviews can showcase real-life examples and generate a sense of trust.
- Always be testing: Get the most out of your creative testing by only changing one creative element at a time.
- **Keep it fresh:** On longer running campaigns, refreshing the creative once a month can help increase CTR on the campaign.

# **About GroundTruth**

GroundTruth is a media company that turns real-world behavior into marketing that delivers real business results.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>AAA Away from Home for the Holidays, <sup>2</sup>Deloitte <sup>3</sup>NerdWallet Travel Inflation Report: May 2023, <sup>4</sup>American Express) <sup>5</sup>GroundTruth Creative Best Practices Interested in Learning More?
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