**Top U.S. Travel Trends for 2016**

In a result that would make Mickey Mouse proud, Orlando squeaked by Maui to claim the top spot in a survey of U.S. vacation destinations for 2016, according to a national poll of travel experts.

As part of its annual Travel Trends Survey, Travel Leaders Group surveyed 1,316 U.S.-based travel agency owners, managers and front-line agents about the top destinations they’re already booking for 2016. The agents were asked to name the five top domestic destinations in demand from their clients.

Orlando, which finished second last year, came in first at 35.9 percent, followed very closely by the Hawaiian island of Maui with 35.8 percent. Rounding out the top five are Alaskan cruises, 35.3 percent; New York City, 30.6 percent; and Las Vegas, 28.8 percent.

Visitors to Orlando will find plenty of new attractions in 2016. Disney World has given its shopping and dining area a makeover and a new name, Disney Springs, inspired by Florida’s historic architecture. Plus, Disney is building several new attractions one based on the hot “Star Wars” movie franchise, plus an addition to its Animal Kingdom that’s inspired by the film “Avatar.”

Maui is Hawaii’s second-largest island and a great option for travelers who want to experience the Aloha State’s stunning scenery and world-famous beaches. Maui offers recreational activities from hiking and horseback riding to windsurfing and snorkeling. January to April is peak time for whale watching. Haleakala National Park is home to the island’s highest peak, rising 10,023 feet above sea level. The summit is an unforgettable vantage point from which to view a sunrise or sunset.

In 2016, there’ll be more options for travelers who want to experience Alaska’s breathtaking landscape from a cruise ship. Princess Cruises will have six ships plying the state’s waters, offering a combination of land and sea packages. Holland America Line is planning a new “Base Camp” at the entrance to Denali National Park, an area with shopping, dining and entertainment that will accompany the cruise line’s signature Alaska Land + Sea Journeys.

Two New York City landmarks are turning 125 years old in 2016, making this year a perfect time to visit. The New York Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark, with 250 acres that are home to more than a million living plants. The annual Orchid Show takes place Feb. 27 to April 17. Carnegie Hall is also celebrating its 125th birthday. There’ll be a gala concert May 5, as well as a full slate of performances all year long.

Las Vegas, a city known for entertainment options, is getting more this year. In April, the 20,000-seat Las Vegas Arena opens with a roster of rock, pop and country music stars performing throughout 2016. Also in the spring, MGM Grand Hotel and Casino is bringing the sports entertainment chain Topgolf to the Strip, offering competitive golfing for all ages and abilities, with technology that tracks the accuracy and distance of players’ shots.

For help planning a trip to any of these destinations, contact your travel agent.