# Forbes

# 10 Unique Ways To Display Your Travel Photos

*By Irene S. Levine*
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Toronto-native Janice Chung has visited France 34 times since 1978. "Going to France brings me to my happy place," she says. An introvert by nature, Chung is more outgoing and comfortable meeting new people there, especially since she's become proficient in the language.

During her career as a school principal, she seized every opportunity she could to spend summers and holiday vacations abroad. After retirement, the trips became longer and more frequent. Her last 12-day visit (to Menton, Nice, and the Côte d'Azur) was in March 2020, just as COVID-19 cases were surging. As might be expected, Janice is sticking close to home right now—deriving pleasure from the memories and photographs she took during those past trips.

Like Chung, many travel enthusiasts have accumulated hundreds (or thousands) of digital photos.

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Forbes.com asked avid travelers, photographers and interior designers for ideas on how they creatively display their most treasured photos:

**Bring a landscape home on metal**

Chung, a resolute Francophile, found a way to bring some of the joy of southern France into her home. A metal print of the lavender fields on a bright sunny day of Provence, made from one of her digital photographs, is

prominently displayed above her fireplace mantle. It was relatively inexpensive, made at a local camera shop.

**Print a series of coffee table books**

"I wanted to brighten the predicament of living in a no-travel world right now," says photographer and wanderer Louise Trotter. She did that by displaying books with her own photos and stories on shelves, as they might appear in a library.

The 10x10-sized collection has a uniform look although the books vary in length based on the particular trip. She uses Shutterfly, one of many photo services that print and bind photo books professionally. Although more likely to share them with family and friends pre-pandemic, she enjoys looking at them, "leafing through the images and memories," she says.

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**Design a pentaptych gallery wall**

Houston-based interior designer Pamela O'Brien of Pamela Hope Designs often creates gallery walls for her clients. In one installation, she hung the client's photos up and down a hallway almost from floor to ceiling. "It created a bohemian, interactive gallery because everyone loves to peruse the shots and figure out which ones are new," she says.

However, one of the most interesting ideas she's come across was a design by her colleague, photographer Donna Carnahan, who took an original photograph and turned it into an asymmetric five-piece canvas. "It's a very fresh and clever way to display a treasured photo," says O'Brien. "Dividing a photo into segments makes the display feel more custom and creates movement and interest."

"A professional photographer might use Photoshop to lay out the image, and choose the sizes and shapes of the individual photos," she adds. Her do-it-yourself tips for a gallery look: Have good-quality prints professional framed in the same style or purchase matching frames. White mats make for a polished, finished look.

## Create a collage corner

Even if you don't have a wall to spare, you probably have a corner. Denver-based Kelly Vo and her husband are owners of Brave Africa, a Botswana safari business. Vo found the perfect spot for inspiration above her desk in her home office.

"We wanted to highlight our love for Botswana, wildlife and the safari experience," she says. She calls it her "Ode to Africa" corner, covered with small knick-knacks she picked up on travels coupled with favorite safari photos. The black and white hippo is from the couple's first safari.

"My goal was to design something that made me smile and think about all the reasons I am passionate about work. I also wanted a backdrop that would look good on camera since I use the area to film YouTube videos," she says. She used floating shelves and started mixing and matching picture frames until she achieved the look she was aiming for.

## Seize an anywhere-you-can placement

Brie Shelly, a travel advisor based in Boston, is passionate about her work so it's not surprising that her home is filled with the photos she's taken over the years. "Each room has its own theme, and years of learning from my parents, who both work in design industries, has paid off," she says. Oddly, one of her favorite gallery spots is her windowless guest bathroom that needed brightening up. "It's off a long hallway covered with photos so we wanted to continue the theme," she says.

The large photo is from a stay in Cambodia at Shinta Mani Wild, this past February, before the pandemic picked up; the small photo is from a travel partner in Zimbabwe.The bookshelf holds a number of travel souvenirs, including elephants with bells on them from northern Thailand. "The elephant was a lucky find by my husband years ago, which we have since named 'Fred,'" she says.

### Turn a print into glass

Abhi Lokesh is the CEO/co-founder of Fracture, a Florida-based photo printing company that turns travel photos into frameless glass pieces of art, suitable for wall displays or placement on an easel. To create each handcrafted piece, vibrant colored inks are sprayed directly on glass that is overlaid with an invisible protective coating. A bright, opaque layer of white ink, applied directly beneath the colored layer, adds richness and depth.

These photos offer a clean, contemporary look. Eco-travelers will especially appreciate that the carbon-neutral company uses minimalist packaging and a recycle-friendly manufacturing process. Also available from Fracture: Physical and digital gift cards for friends and family.

### Span the globe surrounded by photos

"I've traveled to about 26 countries and take photos everywhere," says travel blogger Lauren Cirkot. "I'm always looking for ways to display them. Cirkot bought her sculptured metal wall map from Etsy a few years ago but says that many sellers offer similar versions if you enter the term "world map metal."

The photos are hung from strings connected to the closest continent where the photo was taken, and hangs on the bedroom/office wall of Cikot's studio apartment in Connecticut.

### Tile the walls

Travel photographer and writer Laura Grier and her boyfriend had a hard time choosing which of the many hundreds of travel photos to display. They decided to pick one from each journey and mount it on an 8x8 foam core square. The "tiles" are lightweight, colorful, inexpensive (about $14 each), and can be easily removed as they're hung with double-sided sticky tape.

"It was actually a fun couples activity to do together during quarantine," she says. "The wall in my office reminds us of all our trips without being overwhelming or having to print full albums."

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**Cocoon in a photo-themed room**

Luciana Fragali, owner of Design Solutions, a Miami-based interior and architectural design firm, was commissioned to design a client's contemporary bedroom. She creatively incorporated his dramatic black and white photos so the room reflects his passions for travel, photography and Africa.

"Travel photography is not only about discovering beautiful destinations but can also be a passport to meet new people, experience other cultures and discover common ground, as well as differences," says Fragali. "When mixed in with design, it tells the story of who you are, where you've been, and the passions that ignite you—all within the borders of your home."

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**Stream photos as a digital screensaver on your TV**

Most smart TVs allow owners to upload custom images as a screensaver. Laurence Norah, a professional travel photographer and blogger currently living in Bath, England, cycles his travel photos on his living room TV. "This is a lovely way to display photo memories from our travel adventures without having to stick to one image," says Norah.

Not only is it free but it's easy. "I actually have an Amazon Firestick which has a screensaver feature and you can choose the images you want to display," he says. Google Chromecast offers a similar function.