

TRAVEL • DRINK • FOOD • TY'S TIPS • LIFESTYLE • DIY • MUSIC

Enjoy

NOVEMBER 2016

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A Table Setting to be
Thankful For

7 DAYS IN
Morocco

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The Home
Purchase Experts®

TY'S TIPS: 5 QUICK
WINTERIZATION TIPS

and much more!

Vol 5 ISSUE: 6

Enjoy

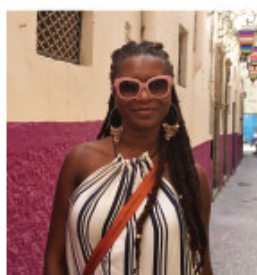
NOVEMBER 2016

There's something powerful about saying, "Thank you." Two simple words that offer praise and gratitude. At a time when negativity dominates local news and social media, giving positive feedback is renewing. It sets you apart. Try saying thank-you to your spouse for cooking dinner, to your kids for picking up after themselves, or to your parents for providing love and support. A simple thank-you sounds simple, but it's not. It takes vulnerability. Luckily, Thanksgiving is made for thank-yous. Sitting around the dinner table is the perfect time to tell your family and friends how much they mean to you. Over home-cooked goodness, sharing loving words is a recipe for holiday success.

Try downloading our selection of gratitude songs in the **Music** section. If your Thanksgiving dinner doesn't turn into a dance party with *Sly & The Family Stone* singing "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" then nothing will!

I'm grateful for the chance to travel to one of my bucket list destinations, Morocco. In this month's **Travel** section, I share my journey into this exotic North African luxury destination. Knowing that everyone is focused on Thanksgiving dinner, this month's **Food** section shares a recipe I brought back from Marrakech. Everyone knows how to bake a turkey, but have you ever tried Tagine Chicken? It's the remedy to bland chicken your taste buds have been craving.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Enjoy,
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ALL ABOUT NOVEMBER

EVENTS, HOLIDAYS AND THEN SOME



November 2016

NOVEMBER 1

All Saints' Day

NOVEMBER 6

Daylight Savings Time End

NOVEMBER 8

Election Day

NOVEMBER 12

National Pizza Day

NOVEMBER 14

World Diabetes Day

NOVEMBER 16

International Day for Tolerance

NOVEMBER 17

Great American Smokeout
(Quit Smoking Day)

NOVEMBER 24

Thanksgiving Day

NOVEMBER 25

Black Friday

NOVEMBER 26

Small Business Saturday

NOVEMBER 27

Advent begins

NOVEMBER 28

Cyber Monday

NOVEMBER 29

Giving Tuesday

Observances

National Adoption Month
National Diabetes Month

Astrological Sign

Scorpio

Birthstone

Topaz & Citrine

Flower

Chrysanthemum

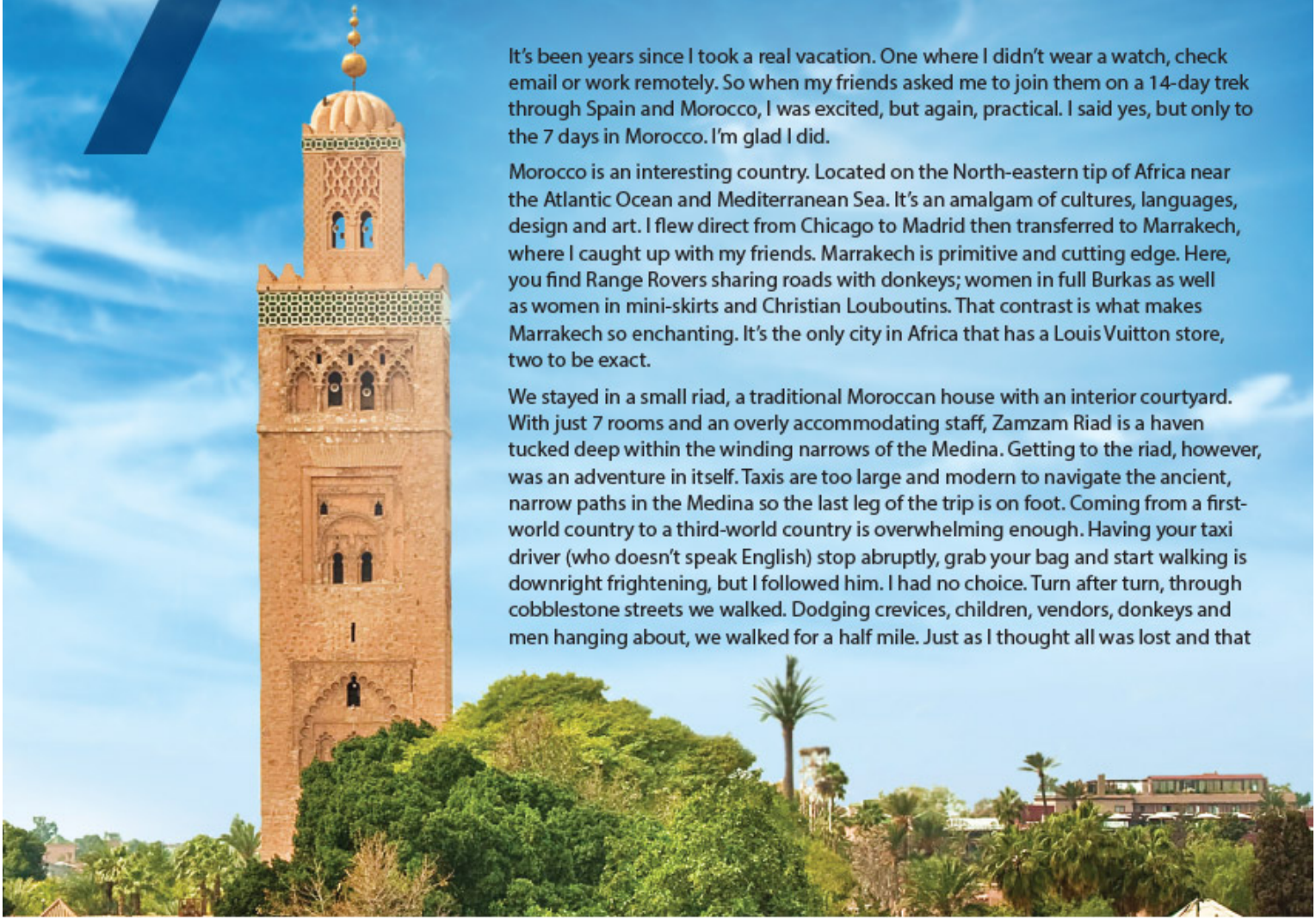
7 DAYS IN *Morocco*

by: Chrystal Caruthers

It's been years since I took a real vacation. One where I didn't wear a watch, check email or work remotely. So when my friends asked me to join them on a 14-day trek through Spain and Morocco, I was excited, but again, practical. I said yes, but only to the 7 days in Morocco. I'm glad I did.

Morocco is an interesting country. Located on the North-eastern tip of Africa near the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. It's an amalgam of cultures, languages, design and art. I flew direct from Chicago to Madrid then transferred to Marrakech, where I caught up with my friends. Marrakech is primitive and cutting edge. Here, you find Range Rovers sharing roads with donkeys; women in full Burkas as well as women in mini-skirts and Christian Louboutins. That contrast is what makes Marrakech so enchanting. It's the only city in Africa that has a Louis Vuitton store, two to be exact.

We stayed in a small riad, a traditional Moroccan house with an interior courtyard. With just 7 rooms and an overly accommodating staff, Zamzam Riad is a haven tucked deep within the winding narrows of the Medina. Getting to the riad, however, was an adventure in itself. Taxis are too large and modern to navigate the ancient, narrow paths in the Medina so the last leg of the trip is on foot. Coming from a first-world country to a third-world country is overwhelming enough. Having your taxi driver (who doesn't speak English) stop abruptly, grab your bag and start walking is downright frightening, but I followed him. I had no choice. Turn after turn, through cobblestone streets we walked. Dodging crevices, children, vendors, donkeys and men hanging about, we walked for a half mile. Just as I thought all was lost and that





I would disappear forever into the darkness behind the rubble, a large artisan carved door opened and Faisal smiled and said "Welcome, Chrystal, how was your flight?" Warm smiles, my friends, and a relaxing Hammam spa treatment greeted me and melted away all apprehension.

MOROCCAN RUGS

If you've ever longed for a hand-knotted virgin wool Berber carpet, they're all over Marrakech. The Berber people from the Atlas Mountains weave these rugs to insulate their walls, floors and roofs. In the riads, every bedroom floor is covered with the soft thickness of wool rugs — a cozy comfort after walking miles through the Medina, a mazelike medieval walled city. One of the reasons I wanted to go to Morocco is to buy an authentic rug and other goodies. The exchange rate is favorable for Americans. One hundred dollars is about 367 Moroccan dirhams. In other words, a bargain. I purchased an 8x10 wool rug for about \$550. At Restoration Hardware, a similar Moroccan rug would have been more than \$4,000.

SOUKS

Within the walled Medina are souks, open air markets, where shop owners offer handmade textiles, art, clothing and more. Negotiating is encouraged, and I love a bargain. I scored embroi-

dered cotton caftans for lounging around the house, light fixtures, perfume, original canvas oil paintings and more. The options are overwhelming, in the best way. One of my favorite things about shopping in Morocco is the hospitality. After each purchase, shopkeepers offered to make us refreshing mint tea. Surprisingly, hot tea is comforting in hot weather. Who knew?

BEACH

We traveled three hours east to the beach town, Essaouira, where surfers rode the waves and camels lounged on the beach. Yes, camels were chilling in the sun, just like us. Horses ran through the water and tourists just took it all in. **Game of Thrones** fans know Essaouira, a UNESCO World Heritage fortified seaport, as *Astapor*, a city where *Daenerys Targaryen* gains her army. This late 18-century city is mix of African and European culture. In Essaouira, we ate prawns and Champaign while dining seaside. Again, the dollar goes a long way. We stayed at *Riad Rejali*, the most luxurious place on the beach. With a private pool, separate bedroom suites, multiple dining areas and a rooftop made for star gazing, the worries of daily life felt a million miles away.

ARGAN OIL

On the road to Essaouira, we saw goats in trees. This is particular to Morocco.

Goats hop into the trees, perch themselves onto the gangly branches to eat the seasonal fruit. The benefit, the goats excrete clumps of seeds that are pressed into the highly prized, and very expensive, argan oil. We visited a women's cooperative that makes argan oil. It's a labor intensive industry. First, the nuts are cracked with rocks, then ground into a paste before being pressed into oil.

INSPIRATION

Fashion designers have been traveling to Marrakech for years for a one-stop dose of global inspiration. *Yves Saint Laurent* purchased a 12-acre botanical garden here in 1980 that is now open to the public. It houses a Berber museum and a haute couture gift shop. *Mara Hoffman's* 2016 one-piece colorful swimsuits were inspired by this garden, a rich mix of cacti and primary colors.

If you ever have the chance to visit Morocco, do it. My words don't do it justice. It was a transformational vacation that made me feel grateful for all that I have while also feeling that much of what we work for is unnecessary. It's beautiful. The people are welcoming and warm and because of them, I now want to learn a second language. Most Moroccans speak at least three languages perfectly.



DRINK

SPIKED MOROCCAN MINT TEA

by: Chrystal Caruthers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

4 Lemon Verbena leaves

1 Cup Square One Organic
Botanical Vodka

Gunpowder green tea

Whole mint leaves

2 Slices of orange zest
(about 1-inch each)

1 Inch piece of fresh ginger,
peeled and thinly sliced

4 Sugar cubes

BREW TEA:

Bring 3 cups of water to a simmer.
In your nicest silver teapot, add 2
tablespoons of loose leaf gunpowder
green tea, verbena leaves, sugar cubes,
ginger and a handful of fresh mint
leaves. Steep for three minutes. Strain.
Let cool.

In an ice filled shaker, add vodka and
tea. Shake. Pour into colorful Moroccan
glasses garnished with mint sprigs.

ENJOY!





Tagine Chicken

Recipe courtesy
of Zamzam Riad

with preserved lemons & olives

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Whole chicken (skinned and quartered) | 2 Tablespoons parsley (chopped) | 2 Pinches of saffron |
| 2 Preserved lemon peels | 1 Teaspoon salt | 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil |
| 1 Cup green olives (with pits) | 2 Teaspoons black pepper | 2 Tablespoons of olive oil |
| 5 Garlic cloves (grated) | 2 Teaspoons ginger (grated) | 6 Ounces of water |
| 2 White onions (chopped) | | |

INSTRUCTIONS:

Add both oils to the bottom of the Tagine. Add chopped onions, garlic, ginger, saffron and parsley. Season skinless chicken with salt and pepper. Mix (by hand) with chicken. Place Tagine on stovetop over medium high heat for 10 minutes. Sauté. Add lemon peels on top of chicken. Add olives. Add water, reduce heat to low, cover Tagine and let cook for 1.5 hours checking frequently to add a little water, if necessary.

ENJOY!



A portrait of Ty Pennington, a man with short brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt over a white t-shirt. He is standing with his arms crossed. The background is a warm, out-of-focus indoor setting.

TY'S TIPS

NOVEMBER TIPS FROM
TY
PENNINGTON
INTERIOR DESIGN STAR

5 QUICK WINTERIZATION TIPS

Halloween has come and gone and the holiday season is near, which means winter will soon be barreling toward us once again. It's not something to dread if you love skiing...and if you've planned ahead by preparing your home for the colder, harsher weather that's on the way.

For those who are new to the wonderful world of homeownership, an annual winterization ritual can help you avoid Mother Nature's wrath — not to mention repair bills.

Contributed by:
Chris Lathrop, based on tips from the Ty Pennington Design Team



Here are 5 things to pay attention to (and fix if necessary) when preparing your home for winter. I'll start with something that might surprise you:

AIR CONDITIONER

Yep, it'll be turned off for the next several months, but if you want your central air conditioning system to work properly again in the summer when temperatures shoot up again, you should cover the top portion of the outdoor unit with a piece of plywood, or a trash bag, to keep falling ice and other debris from collecting inside. Covering the entire unit can help keep it from looking weather beaten, but more importantly, it can also prevent moisture from escaping. Added bonus, it will keep small animals away who seek warmth within. Remember, cover it now to prevent mechanical failures later.

HEATING SYSTEM

Okay, this one is more obvious. Don't wait until you really need it to find out if there's a problem with your heating system. Do a test run before temps fall into the 50s, or lower, to make sure it's generating warm air. Before winter is also a good time to change the air filters and the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

CHIMNEY

This is another part of your house where critters seeking warmth can cause problems so you should check for nests that could block airflow. Since that involves climbing a ladder, consider hiring a chimney sweeper to do the job and give your flue a professional cleaning as well.

ROOF

As we all know, heat rises. And when it rises inside your house during the

winter, it warms up your roof. In snowy climates, this can cause ice dams — snow melts and drains toward your gutters then freezes again. To alleviate this issue, make sure your roof has enough vents to allow excess heat to escape. Also, make sure they're not obstructed.

OUTDOOR SPACE

If the type of grass in your lawn calls for it, put down some winterizing fertilizer with the proper amounts of nitrogen and potassium. Apply some sealer to your wooden deck if it's overdue for a treatment. Cover your patio furniture, or better yet, store it in the garage, shed or basement. Finally, buy some plastic and foam faucet covers to keep your outside water fixtures from freezing, and your pipes from bursting.

Once your home is buttoned up for winter, you can focus on bundling yourself up in ugly sweaters for the holidays.

Why wait for Cyber Monday?

SHOP DAILY FLASH SALES

by: Courtney Simmons

We are a society of time-savers, deal-finders, and convenience-seekers so when it comes to Christmas shopping, it stands to reason that we would find a way to forgo the lines, the crowds and inefficiency of driving from store to store.

Enter Cyber Monday, the online version of Black Friday, which always occurs on the Monday following Thanksgiving Day. It's the single busiest online shopping day of the year, surpassing

\$3 billion in online sales in 2015. For shoppers, it's a chance to score deep discounts on 4K TVs without risking one's life in a mob push. For businesses, on the other hand, it's a day of lost productivity as workers spend most of their time monitoring their shopping carts. But there's a better way, Flash Sales.

The latest online retailers offer Cyber Monday-style deals year-round. The one caveat, these sales only last for 24-48 hours. Time is of the essence.

How does it work?

Most Flash-Sale Sites are membership based, meaning they want your email address. When sales are announced, members race to click, and buy their favorite luxury brands – Prada, Max Mara, Vince – all at discounts you can't find in stores. Best of all, most include free shipping! Here's our list of flash sale sites worth testing your Christmas shopping list on.

FASHION + ACCESSORIES

Belle & Clive – A division of Bluefly.com, it started in the fashion district of NYC. Burberry coats up to 30% off, Tod's handbags up to 35% off and Prada pointy-toe pumps for \$539.

Beyond the Rack – This Montreal-based site is like an online department store. It has kids, maternity and a curvy women's section. Find Celine handbags, Versace silk scarves and Alexis Bittar jewelry.

HauteLook – Acquired by Nordstrom in 2011, HauteLook offers daily curated, "west coast casual" fashion. Think Sam Edelman boots, Tart jumpsuits and Kenneth Cole New York outerwear.

Plndr – For the hipsters, Plndr offers 48 and 72-hour flash sales. Here, you find a curated selection of streetwear from brands like Fly Society, Ransom and Billionaire Boys Club, to name a few.

HOUSEWARES

Joss & Main – A combination of blog-style content and hot deals on rugs, light fixtures and duvets. Here you'll find retail brands like Wayfair, All Modern, Birch Lane, and Dwell Studio.

One King's Lane – An interior designer-curated site that offers home décor and travel essentials at discounted prices. Sales last for 72 hours. Shipping starts at \$7.95.

Ruelala – Yes, you can also furnish your new home from this site.

Gilt Home – Barware, closet organizers, candles, and furniture all in one place at 48-hour intervals. There are discounts, but this is still high-end shopping.

TRAVEL

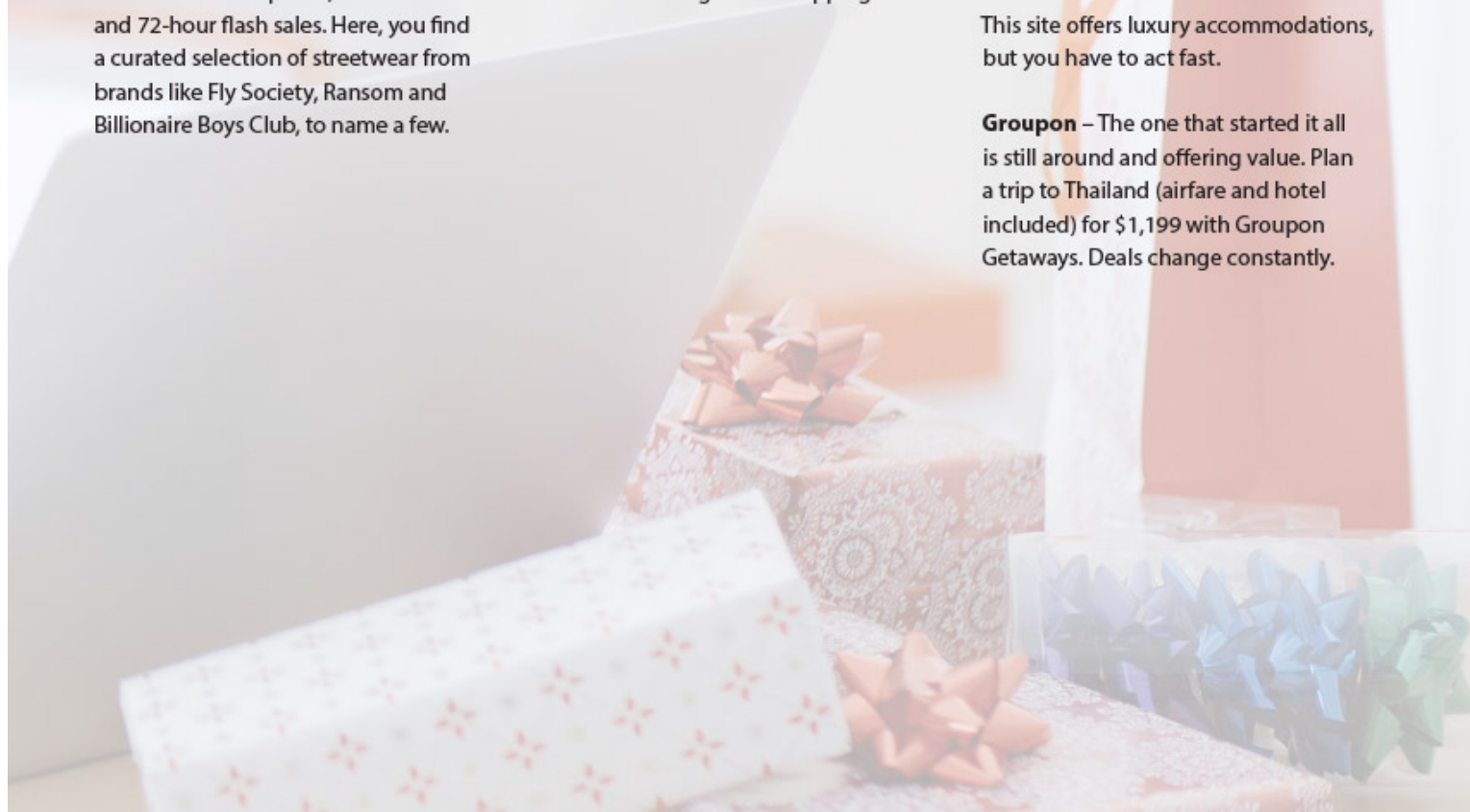
Living Social Escapes – Daily inspiration on adventures at a great price.

Gilt Travel – Score hotel rooms at Calistoga Ranch, Omni Chicago Hotel or Hyatt Regency Dubai. These deals last several days.

Ruelala – Yes, they also offer destination hotels at deep discounts. Think spa retreat at Canyon Ranch, for a special members-only price.

Jet Setter – Planning a trip to Nicaragua? JetSetter has a hotel room for you at a deep discount. Traveling to New York for a show? JetSetter also has rooms at the Arlo NoMad in Midtown. This site offers luxury accommodations, but you have to act fast.


Groupon – The one that started it all is still around and offering value. Plan a trip to Thailand (airfare and hotel included) for \$1,199 with Groupon Getaways. Deals change constantly.



 DIY cligo by Jane


A Table Setting to be Thankful For

by: Jane Monzures



It's Thanksgiving Day prep time in my craft room. I'm surrounded by extra candy from Halloween, spare grocery bags and excess ribbon.

Not one to throw things out, I see a Thanksgiving DIY table setting in the making. While the turkey is the star of your Thanksgiving feast, I have a few crafting ideas to help you personalize each place setting. Your guests will wonder how you managed to bake a juicy bird and put together a custom dining table. **Let's get started.**



Jamie

PLATE SASHES

For the plate sashes you'll need scissors, fabric markers, orange fabric — you can use an old table cloth or bed sheet (just make sure it's something you don't mind cutting up) — a standard lighter, or brown ink pad, if you don't feel comfortable using an open flame.

First, cut the orange fabric into 20x4 strips. Cut as many plates sashes as you have guests.

Next, test the fabric for flammability. You want to slightly burn the edges of each strip to give them a weathered look. You can use a match, but I found it easier to use a lighter. Let the fire singe the fabric edge then extinguish it immediately. This craft should only be performed in a well ventilated area. Also, because of the fire use, this craft is not for kids. For a kid-friendly alternative, rub a black ink pad along the edge of the fabric to achieve a similar burnt-vintage look.

Once both sides of the sash have a weathered look, it's time to get creative.

Grab a red or gold fabric marker and write your guests' names on each sash. You can also add embellishments like flowers, leaves, ribbons and bows.

SWEET TREAT BOXES

This is a great way to use up all that left over Halloween candy plus, it adds a beautiful surprise to your Thanksgiving table.

You will need several used, empty cardboard jewelry boxes, a brown



paper bag, tape, scissors, ribbon and lots of candy or cookies.

First, wrap the boxes in craft paper, or, if you're fond of up-cycling, use a brown paper bag. Be sure to wrap the top and bottom of each box separately so it's easy for your guests to open.

Next, tack the ribbon on the inside of the box. Tie a beautiful bow with your ribbon. You can use fall colors, or any ribbon that matches your table décor. I like to use two different ribbons to make the box look more colorful and inviting. Stock it full of treats and place one at every place setting on your table. Now that's what I call stuffing a sweet treat box!

Happy Thanksgiving!





MUSIC

give thanks

THANK YOU

New Edition

THANK YOU

Boyz II Men

THANK YOU

Christina Aguilera

THANK YOU

Ashanti

THANK YOU

Dido

THANK YOU

India.Arie

THANK YOU

Estelle

THANK YOU

Keyshia Cole

THANK U

Alanis Morissette

THANK YOU

Led Zeppelin

THANK YOU

The Calling

THANK YOU

Celine Dion

THANK YOU

Bonnie Raitt

THANK YOU (FALETTINME BE MICE ELF AGIN)

Sly & The Family Stone

I THANK YOU

Sam & Dave

I THANK YOU

ZZ Top

THANKFUL

Kelly Clarkson





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loans up to two
days faster than
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*Industry Source: Ellie Mae Inc. Origination Insight Reports from January, February and March.
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