

# **The Cheaper Way to Get Away**

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# The Cheaper Way to Get Away

## **Cheap Travel Tips**

All people need a break, to reconnect with the spouse, to reward the kids, to recharge the soul. But planning a vacation getaway can quickly turn into a stressful project when the subject of expenses comes up. Airfare alone can kill the fantasy. And when people already factor in accommodations, food, and shopping, any budget-conscious mother would just give up and stay home.

Thankfully, there are now more options for quick and fun vacations without having the costly air fares.

## **Cheap Airfare**

So, how does low-cost or cheap air fare work exactly? Simple: Budget air travel gets you to your destination in the shortest time and at the cheapest possible price.

The main reason these airlines are able to keep airfare prices low is the no-frills concept. First, there's no ticketing office to sustain. All reservations and purchases are transacted online. Through e-ticketing, tickets can be purchased on the Web, which eliminates the need to employ more people for processing or maintain international offices.

However, people can still avail of cheaper airfares even if they don't want to take chances with budget air travel. Here's how:

1. Purchasing the airline ticket at least 10 days ahead of the scheduled trip will enable the individual to avail of super low fares.
2. It is best to choose a weekday departure and arrival date when possible. This is because weekend flights get filled up faster than weekdays and airlines often offer discounts to fill up the weekday flights.
3. It would be better to book as a group of three or more to get even more discounts on fees.
4. People compare notes with and consult their friends and colleagues who have recently traveled.
5. In order to get the cheap airfares, people should be on the lookout for discounted rates on the Internet. Most of the cheap airfares are available online.
6. It is best to shop around for the cheap airfare first before you jump on the first deal you see. This is because there are airlines that may offer cheap airfares but the quality of service is entirely bad. Most airlines with cheap airfares have low quality of service

and lacking the usual amenities.

All of these boil down to the fact that low-cost airlines may help people to extend their vacation and make it more memorable. They just have to shop around to get those that offer cheap airfare but the quality of service is not taken for granted.

### **How To Get Cheap Travel Tickets**

With planning, foresight and a little bit of hard work, you can go ahead and have that dream vacation the economical way. Here's how:

1. Search the internet, call airline agencies and watch the news to keep yourself up to date on discounts. There are a lot of promotional fares offered by airline companies that are new in the industry.
2. If you do travel a lot, sign up for frequent flier miles.
3. Ask about student fares or senior citizen discounts.
4. Keep a flexible travel schedule. Go with the flow. If the promo states that they only give discounts every Tuesdays, then set your departure on Tuesday. Generally, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are the days that have fewer reservations, so it is on these days that tickets are sold cheap. Monday is usually the busiest day of the week.
5. Do not go ahead and make reservations to the first airline company you see with promotions. Take the time to source out a variety of options. Take the time to find out if the promotion is indeed the cheapest in your area. Ask the clerk about other offers available. When checking through the internet, make sure you check at least five sites before you decide where to buy your tickets.
6. You can have the option of purchasing tickets through consolidators. These are people who buy a whole block of tickets and resell them at certain discounts. This helps the airline fill up still available seats. The travel section of the newspaper is the place to check for ticket consolidators.
7. Try flying on off peak hours schedule. Usually if you take the before seven in the morning flight or the after seven in the evening flight, tickets are at their cheapest. This too, will be a wise decision since it is at these times that airlines are not overcrowded, thus getting more space for yourself and your luggage.
8. Be sure to inquire if the airline offers travel packages. Some airlines do offer packages such as car rental discount or a hotel room discount that comes with the travel ticket.

9. When you are flying off season, be very sure to ask about certain standby fares.
10. Have an early booking. Promotions are usually offered when one reserves a ticket three weeks beforehand. Remember that due to over crowding during the holidays, you may not use your frequent flier miles. So book in advance if you plan to travel during the holidays.
11. Staying with only one airline on your entire trip may too, give you discounts. Airlines offer special rates to round trip tickets or connecting flights.

Have a safe trip and enjoy!

### **More Advice for Getting Great Buys on Airline Tickets**

#### **Buy tickets 3-5 months before your departure date.**

Some airlines offer discounts for early buyers. It's also best to buy your tickets at least 20 days in advance to ensure the best seating possible, most discounted tickets sell out fast. You should also know that Airline Tickets are subject to price increase, especially during Christmas season, buying early avoids further ticket increase.

#### **Never fly on weekends**

If you're planning a trip, plan to leave on weekdays, preferable Monday to Wednesday. Weekends are high traffic times, for travelers and would probably cost you an additional \$25-\$40 increase.

#### **Don't travel During Peak season**

Airlines tend to increase ticket prices during Peak travel season due to the increase in demand. Traveling during low season is also advantageous if you want to avoid airport and tourist spot crowds. If you really have to travel during peak season, consider leaving home early and going home late to avoid the rush.

#### **How long to Stay**

Yes your travel stay also affects airline ticket prices. Airlines give discounts if you stay at least a week at your destination and return within 90 days.

#### **Consider a Connecting Flight**

Contrary to popular belief, direct flights aren't always the cheapest. Some people have saved up to \$1000 dollars on booking connecting instead of Direct flights. If you don't have a lot of luggage, and aren't very particular with time, it is best, and a lot cheaper

to book a connecting flight instead of direct.

### **Use the senior citizen discount**

Some Airlines offer the same senior Citizen discount for the companions of the Senior Citizen. Ask if it's available.

### **The Early Bird gets the Airline Ticket**

Call Airlines at 12:01 am on Wednesday mornings. This is when airlines release all the new fares and seat plans. You can be first and choose the best and cheapest tickets at this time.

### **Shop in the Internet**

The best feature of the internet is that you see all available Prices at a very convenient place, your home. You won't have to canvass travel agencies. Some internet sites even offer internet only discounts that you can benefit from if you avail of their services.

### **When you do shop on the internet**

Check first with travel agents regarding prices, Internet prices aren't always cheap, it's best to ask a good old travel agent. It won't hurt to look at news papers too, as some airlines publish discounts on print. If you're planning to buy more than 6 months in advance, it's probably best to ask a travel guide as internet sites don't usually have schedules for longer than six months.

## **Air, Hotel & Rental Car: Best Buys in Travel**

If you are looking to plan your vacation but are working with a tight budget, you might be surprised to find that cheap travel deals are easier to find than you may think. These days many airlines, hotels and rental car companies have wised up and realized that many travelers can not afford certain perks, so there have been many efforts made to make cheap travel options available to those who have limited budgets.

JetBlue Airlines is one airline built on the goal of creating affordable travel. JetBlue was created as a low-fare airline based out of John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City in 2000. Five years later the airline serves 32 cities throughout the United States including Boston, Las Vegas and Washington DC. Do not think that lower air fares translate into shoddy service. JetBlue only flies new, unused airplanes and the airlines' planes actually are the newest overall in comparison to all other airlines. The airline focuses on quality service since it relies on faithful customers who value flying for low prices.

Another airline that may make it cheaper for you to fly to your vacation destination is Southwest Airlines. Serving 59 cities across the United States, Southwest Airlines offers a number of special sales and deals throughout the year. During special offers made by Southwest Airlines, passengers can find one-way tickets to destinations across the United States for as low as \$39.

If you are looking for cheap lodging, look no further than Super 8 Motel. With over 2,000 locations in the United States, Canada and China, Super 8 is likely to be able to serve you. Not only does Super 8 offer some of the lowest hotel room rental rates in the world, but they also offer a Guaranteed Best Rate program. If you find a hotel that offers a similar room for a lower price, Super 8 will give you your first night's stay for free. No other national hotel chain offers a program such as this.

Super 8 is confident in its low rates and high quality rooms and service. The chain guarantees you will be satisfied with your stay. Super 8 also offers a number of other discounts available such as a triple A member discount, a Trip Rewards program where frequent visitors can earn reward points, and special rates for large groups. Room rates typically begin at about \$70-\$75 without discounts. Other national hotel chains such as the Days Inn and the Holiday Inn often run specials as well so if you know the dates of your vacation it would be smart to look into any possible discounts that would be available to you at that time.

Once you arrive at your destination, you will have to find a method of transportation to get you to your hotel and to any nearby attractions you plan on visiting. A rental car is the easiest way to do so. Although public transportation may be cheaper, a rental car ensures that you are able to travel at your own pace without having to abide by a public transportation schedule. Rental cars can be expensive and typically run by the day. However, it is possible to find rental car companies that offer low rental prices.

U-Save Auto Rental is one of these companies. U-Save Auto Rentals offers cars and SUVs for rent at prices lower than that of their competitors. Small economy cars can be rented for as little as \$29.98 per day, one of the lowest rates you will be able to find anywhere. SUVs are slightly higher, with Lincoln Navigators renting at \$103.98 per day, considerably lower than the rates of competing rental car companies.

Planning a cheap but quality vacation is more than possible if you do your research before traveling. The internet can be an extremely valuable tool for this. Compare prices from as many airlines, hotels, and car rental companies as possible to find the ones that will give you exactly what you are looking for at a low, bargain price. If you look around you will be able to put together a great vacation at a very low price.

## **Frequent Flyer Miles: How Does It All Work?**

If you are a frequent traveler you might have considered enrolling yourself in a frequent flyer program, but you might be wondering how it all works. Put simply, frequent flyer programs allow flyers to earn free miles of flight for every mile traveled. For people who must travel a lot for their jobs or for other reasons such as visiting family, a frequent flyer program is a very smart choice.

Frequent flyer programs are actually easy to understand. For each mile that frequent flyer customers travel, they earn a mile of frequent flyer miles. The catch is that they must travel on the airline that they signed up with. For example, American Airlines frequent flyers do not earn frequent flyer miles if they travel on a Delta flight. This is why it is smartest to choose one airline and stick to it, rather than trying to accumulate frequent flyer miles with numerous airlines.

The more you travel, the more miles you accumulate and the more you are rewarded. Many airlines have levels, such as silver, gold and platinum, to signify the status of frequent fliers. The more one travels, the higher in rank they will rise. If your airline is affiliated with a hotel or rental car service, miles may translate into points, which can be used towards airline tickets, rental car prices, or hotel stays.

Once you have accumulated a certain amount of miles, you will be able to redeem them for rewards. Airlines typically have an 800 number where customers can speak with representatives who are familiar with the frequent flyer program. This provides convenience for customers who are looking to redeem frequent flyer miles or for customers who may have a question or concern about the program. When redeeming miles for free airline tickets, each mile accumulated is the equivalent of two cents. Therefore, in order to purchase a \$200 airline ticket for free, a customer would have to have 10,000 miles accumulated, each worth two cents each.

If you do enroll yourself in a frequent flyer program, keep in mind that many programs have a frequently issued newsletter to keep customers abreast of new promotions, offers and partners. There also may be postings on the airline's website or the frequent flyer program website, if the program has its own website. Also be sure to keep track of the points and miles you have accumulated on your own, in case the airline has a mishap with its system.

### **So how did the frequent flyer program begin?**

In the early 1980s American Airlines initiated the frequent flyer program by introducing a program that rewarded people for frequently flying on American Airlines. The airline used its database to track customers' travel and keep track of how many miles were covered, this let them know when rewards were to be given. After beginning the program American Airlines teamed up with Hertz Rental Cars and Hyatt Hotels to make it even easier for customers to earn rewards. Soon after other airlines followed and competed with one another to have the most appealing frequent flyer program for its customers. This was beneficial to frequent fliers because it created competition between airlines to create the best program, making it better for customers.

After the programs became hugely successful in the United States, the programs expanded to international airlines as well. Some American airlines will team up with airlines in other countries to form alliances. This makes it easier for frequent flyer customers to travel abroad. If a frequent flyer is flying in a country where their airline is not available but their airline's partner airline is available, the customer's frequent flyer miles can transfer over from the miles flown on this flight.

The main goal of the frequent flyer program was for airlines to develop and sustain solid relationships with their customers. Frequent fliers will most likely develop a loyalty to their particular airline and will make sure that all their flights are aboard the airline's planes. Word of mouth is one of the most successful marketing techniques and by gaining loyal, satisfied customers, airlines are increasing the chance that those customers will tell their friends and family how happy they are with the airline.

### **How To Get A Great Hotel Discount**

You need to ASK if you want a discount. Here are ways to do it:

1. Search the internet, look for great deals. There are various types of hotels that offer great discounts on the web for online customers. Be sure to check these out.
2. Plan your trip during the off season months. These are the times when big discounts are given.
3. Call the hotel of your choice. Ask them about offers and discounts that they can give. List all promotions.
4. Certain hotels can give discounts to credit card holders of certain card establishments. Ask for the manager and ask him about it. The manager is the best person to ask, since if you can make negotiations, he has the authority to make negotiations with you.
5. Ask if they give discounts to students or senior citizens.
6. Simply ask over the phone how you can qualify for a discount. If on certain days of the week or at certain times of the year they give discounts, ask them about it and ask how much or how less can they give, then ask if you could get still a higher discount. Usually at off peak seasons, hotels will be willing to give in, just to fill the empty rooms.
6. Ask for certain packages. Hotels usually offer rooms with free breakfast.
7. Do name drop. If you know of someone who frequently stays them, mention his name. It can help. Tell them your friend referred you to them and ask for a discount. Don't ever give up if they say no. A statement like "is that the best you can do?" can encourage a big discount.



8. Often, people in the military get good hotel rates. Usually, discounts are offered to government employees.
9. At off peak seasons, you could definitely ask for special rates. Then if they don't budge after you have offered a discount, ask some extras, like breakfast.
10. When negotiating, it is very important to write down all agreed discussions. Write too, the names of the persons that you have been talking to, the time as well as the day and date. Ask for a number that you can call before checking in to the hotel for confirmation.
11. Upon arrival to the hotel, look around and ask for negotiations once more. For instance if you feel that the hotel is not fully booked, ask for a room with a better view than the one you are in, if you don't agree with what you see.

### **Bargain Vacations: Your Dream Getaway on eBay**

Do you want to get away from the stress of daily life for a few days but you do not think you have the money to do it? Think again. eBay, the largest and most popular worldwide trading website, now offers people the opportunity to purchase vacation packages online at bargain prices!

Stay at a bed & breakfast, a hotel, or rent a house or condo. Purchase a trip to visit the sunny beaches of Florida, the tall mountains of Colorado, or the tropical islands of Hawaii. The possibilities are endless on eBay and chances are that if you have a destination in mind, you will be able to surf the website and find bargain prices for your vacation.

The travel section of eBay offers six sub-categories for vacation seekers to browse through. The airline section features airline tickets that people can either bid on or *buy now*. The section also includes flight-related items, such as passport holders and other items for sale. The section offering cruises is where you will find vacation cruises listed for sale. Take a seven-day cruise to the Bahamas or jump on a boat for five days in the Caribbean. A cruise is a great way to kick back and relax in paradise.

The lodging section is where you will find the greatest variety of vacation destinations for sale. Currently there are 310 listings in the lodging section offering everything from to a condo for rent in Las Vegas to a four-night stay at a resort in Montego Bay. The highest priced vacation listed was a time share at a luxury resort in Scottsdale, Arizona priced at \$4,800. From there prices got considerably lower with only about ten other auctions priced at over \$1,000. The bargains were extremely evident. A buyer could purchase a four night stay in Tampa, Florida for just \$125 – it does not get much cheaper than that.

The luggage section typically has the most auctions and sales listed of all the sub-categories in the travel section. The luggage section is where you will find great deals on luggage to take with you on your bargain eBay vacation. Travel in style to your vacation destination with brand new luggage.

The vacation package section features bargain packages for your vacation. Instead of only offering lodging, the auctions in the vacation package section typically offer all-inclusive vacations, usually at resorts or on cruise liners. The final sub-category in the travel section of eBay is the "other" travel section. Here you will find all other auctions that have to do with travel but do not fit into the usual travel categories. Some auctions in this section include coupon books, rental car vouchers, and other travel gear.

eBay auctions typically last for seven days but can be arranged for shorter amounts of time such as three days or five days. When you open an auction, it will let you know what day and time the auction ends and it will also provide you with a detailed description of everything the auction includes. If you choose to bid on the auction and you do not have an eBay account you will need to open an account. It is free to open an eBay account and once you open yours, you can bid on any auction you wish.

When placing a bid, the website will tell you the current price and what the next possible minimum bid is. Once you enter your bid, you will either become the highest bidder or you will be outbid by a previous bidder whose maximum bid was higher than yours. If you are the highest bidder at the end of the auction, the vacation becomes yours to enjoy.

*Buy It Now* auctions on eBay allow you to make a purchase right away, rather than wait for an auction to end. The seller lists a set price that you can buy the vacation for at the current time. This method is more like a standard sale of an item, rather than a bidding auction.

For people interested in bargain vacations, take the time to browse through the travel eBay section. For those who have never used the World's Largest Online Marketplace, you will most likely be pleasantly surprised with what you find on eBay.

### **Cheap Car Rental Strategies**

If you are taking a plane or a train to your travel destination, then chances are that you will need to get a rental car when you arrive. The best thing you can do for renting a car while on vacation is be prepared. The best way for you to get a good deal is to plan a strategy. By knowing how to rent a car, you will get the best possible deal you can find.

### **Plan Ahead for your car**

The best way to get a deal on a car is to get your reservation in at least 15 days in advance. By making your reservation early, you will have a better chance at getting the exact make and model of car you want and get a good price at the same time. Planning ahead is always the best way to get the most out of your money.

### **No Name Companies**

If for some reason you are traveling unexpectedly and had little or no time to prepare for a rental car, then you may be better off going with a smaller business instead of big named company. This is because you will have a better chance at getting a last minute booking at a better price. The bigger company may not have anything available that you want and you may have to settle for something that you did not expect.

### **Stay away from airport rental companies**

The rental companies that are based out of or near the airport are going to be your higher priced companies. This is because they are conveniently located right there so they figure the consumer will pay more for not having to run around town trying to find a rental car.

### **Shop around on the web**

Rental car companies are known to post coupons and discounts on there web sites for consumers to take advantage of. This is a great opportunity for you to get a quality car at a better-discounted price. Getting a discount on a rental car is always good that way you can spend your money on better things for you vacation.

### ***Always* Take the Insurance**

When you rent a car, you are asked if you want to purchase the optional insurance plan with the car while you are driving it. This is something that you should never pass up. The insurance is there incase there is ever any damage done to the vehicle while in your care.

For example if you hit another car or some one else hits the car and runs. This will protect you from having to pay for the damages with your own pocket money. The insurance is usually cheap, however many people decide not to get the insurance to try to save a buck. You will not save anything if you have an accident and are responsible to pay for all the damages without the insurance.

## **What is Priceline.com**

Priceline.com is a place on the Internet that you will be able to get great deals on numerous travel items. Many people who are planning their vacations or making travel reservations nowadays rely on priceline.com to save the most that they can. Using this service will make your traveling experience not just a cheap one but also a good one.

### **Flights**

You will be able to pick your flight and the times and the airline that you want to travel from. This is a great way to save you time and money. You will find low prices with the same great quality that you would find with other travel companies and ticket holders. It all works by you entering the time and day that you need to leave, the destination that you are leaving for, and the number of tickets that you will need. Priceline will find you the best tickets with the best available price.

### **Hotels**

You will get great discounts at the best hotels in the world. You will be able to shop and compare hotels and select the ones that you want in advance. You will be able to say how much you want to spend and save yourself even more.

Determine the city that you want to travel to with the dates you will arrive and leave. You will then pick the area you want to search and Priceline will find the hotel that best matches your needs. You can even name your price and the quality of hotel that you want. You will be sure to get the best price.

### **Cars and more**

You will even be able to reserve your rental car with price line. You can decide what you want and the location that you will be picking your car rental up. Priceline will do all the work for you and find you great cars with only the best prices. You can do all the paper work online before you even leave your home. There is no need to deal with cranky people, or long lines.

### **Other great offers**

Priceline is designed to make your life easier. There are also special discount on cruises and other great vacations that you will not be able to find anywhere else. It is safe and easy, and you will be able to choose from dozens of entertaining activities that will make your vacation an even better one. The popular attractions always sell out fast. Using Priceline will save you the aggravation and disappointment of losing out on these fun activities by booking them before you leave your home.

## **Things to Know about Travel Consolidators**

Travel consolidators are high-volume ticket brokers. They purchase large scale tickets and sell them to customers for a lower price than the published fares.

A travel consolidator buys a large amount of tickets directly from the carriers or the airline companies. This way they get discounted prices because of the volume purchased. They negotiate with these carriers so they get big discounts. Some travel consolidators even have their own contracts with the airline companies. However, many only negotiate for a specific region. Somewhere they know that is a popular destination, this way they could sell their tickets faster.

Some consolidators are even owned by the carriers themselves. Big airline companies normally have several travel consolidators under their wing. This is done because there may be instances that a number of seats are not sold for a specific flight. What the carriers and the consolidators do is to sell these empty seats at a lower fare. Consolidators buy the extra tickets at a lower price and sell them to travelers at a lower fare than the published rates.

It is not publicly known how consolidating works for travel. Consolidators get their tickets at a much lower price than an ordinary person because of the volume of tickets they bought. This way they at resell the tickets at a much lower price to travelers. But they do make profits. Yes they sell tickets at a lower rate but that doesn't mean that they are sacrificing their profit. Everything is all about money. And they well know how to make money. They also sell some tickets with the same price as the published fares. This way they earn a bigger profit.

They have their own market. Some consolidators sell their tickets to travel agents alone and some sell them both to the travel agent and the public. Some also sell their tickets online.

Travel consolidators even come with different classifications. There may be those who only do wholesale, meaning they resell their tickets in volume. Other travel consolidators might specialize by destination. This means that they only buy tickets on specific regions. However there are also those who specialize on multi-stops or tickets on flights that have several stops.

As with any other job, being a travel consolidator has its pluses and minuses. They have the privilege of buying tickets below the published fares and have the liberty of buying them until the departure date of the said flight. However, the job also has its setbacks. The tickets that consolidators buy often only go on a specific route, which narrows their market. And, they have to learn to negotiate well if they are going to clear a profit!

## **Guide to Cheap Annual Travel Insurance**

Having travel insurance is one way of putting your mind at ease when you travel. It's a lot easier to enjoy your trip if you know that you are covered from luggage lost to sudden sickness while you are away.

The further your trip will be, the more you will need travel insurance. This is common sense, as international trips are costly, so there's a need to protect your hard earned travel money. So wherever you go, be it a local or international destination, it's very important that you have the necessary insurance coverage.

Cheap annual travel insurance is an good alternative choice for budget-conscious travelers who make more than one trip a year. The main feature of the annual travel insurance vs. regular travel insurance is that it saves you money. For a once off annual payment, you are covered whenever you travel during the year. The terms and conditions vary between companies, but annual insurance for unlimited travel is also available. Cheap annual travel insurance provides substantial cost savings than any regular type of travel insurance.

Here are some tips for choosing your best cheap annual travel insurance:

1. Sign up with a reputable insurance company that has worldwide offices which can easily be contacted during emergency needs.
2. The insurance company should have a 24/7 customer assistance
3. Always make your office's 1-800 number available to you when you are abroad.
4. The cost of the insurance should not be more than 10% of your investment.
5. Read the terms and conditions of the policy to make sure you aren't buying unnecessary or inadequate coverage.
6. Look for refundable policy, especially if you have the history of changing your mind too often.
7. A good insurance should cover at least the following:
  - a. Flight cancellation or delay
  - b. Luggage loss and delay
  - c. Sickness and accident during the trip.
  - d. Evacuation support during an emergency situation such as natural calamities

Cheap annual travel insurance is good for you if you take vacations more than once a year. Instead of taking several insurance each time you travel, you can make use of a single insurance policy that could save you a lot of money and time. On the other hand, if you travel less often, an annual insurance policy is not for you since you will obviously not be able to recover the cost.

### **Condos and Time Shares: How Does It All Work?**

If you visit the same vacation destination each year, then you may be interested in

purchasing a more permanent vacation residence. However, if you frequently visit an area on vacation but do not stay for very long each visit, timeshares may be the option to consider. Timeshares can be described as partial ownership of a property. Timeshares are often found in the form of condominiums being sold by resorts. Occasionally you will run into a timeshared home. Ask the local real estate agent about the availability of such homes if this is something you think you might be interested in.

Here's how timeshares work: Timeshares are owned by a number of people who split time at the property throughout the year. The various timeshare owners are able to claim specific time periods throughout the year when they will be able to vacation at the property. Other times will be claimed by other owners so timeshare properties do not hold the convenience that full property ownership does, in the way that you cannot vacation at your home whenever you wish. However, for people who are only looking for a limited amount of vacation time each year, timeshares can be the perfect choice.

Timeshares are designed to save money for the frequent traveler. Real estate can be a huge investment but timesharing is designed to save you considerable amounts of money and still leave you with a great place to stay during your vacation getaways. However, keep in mind that in saving money when purchasing your timeshare, you will also not likely be able to make much money when selling it. This is because timeshares have relatively low property values. When buying into your first timeshare make sure to shop around. You may fall in love with the first place you visit, but look around first and make sure you can not find an even better place at a lower rate. Timeshares that are lived in are typically cheaper than timeshares that are new and have not yet been sold to anyone.

Another thing to keep in mind when deciding on the best timeshare for you is how long you plan on vacationing at your timeshare each year. Timeshares come in all different kinds of shares for the year. In some cases you can even find a timeshare that allows you to visit once every two or three years. If you are not a frequent vacationer, this will assure that you have a beautiful place to stay and will also save you money. For people who plan to visit their timeshare often, they can find timeshares where they get an entire month each year.

Typically timeshares are broken up into 52 week-long periods throughout the year. Timeshare owners are allowed to choose one week each year to visit, however timeshares with longer and shorter vacation periods are also available if you take the time to shop around. Since a timeshare is a major investment, it is best that you find the timeshare that is going to best suit your needs. If you rush into the purchase of a timeshare, you will ultimately regret it if you find down the line that your hasty choice is not what you really want.

One of the biggest benefits to purchasing a timeshare is that in almost all cases the property is maintained for you. You do not have to worry about fixing broken appliances or the maintenance of the exterior of the property. If you purchase your timeshare through a resort, the resort will take care of this upkeep for you and you will simply pay maintenance fees each year. All you will be concerned with is scheduling the weeks you want for your vacation and enjoying yourself while you are there.

Once you find a timeshare that is exactly what you are looking for you will be all set to enjoy your vacations. Just be careful during the buying process. There have been a number of timeshare scams throughout the years that have given timesharing a bad name. However, if you purchase your timeshare through a reputable company, you can rest assured that your money will not be wasted and you will be enjoying your vacations in a beautiful timeshare for years to come.

### **RVing: A Vacation Worth Taking**

For most people, vacations are saved up for and carefully planned. Not only do you want your vacation to be memorable and fun, but you also want to be able to see and do as much as possible. Therefore, vacations are not the time to be wasting money on unnecessary items or services. Your best bet for vacations – if you are not planning on leaving the country – is to take a road trip.

Road trip vacations are one type of vacation where saving money is not only possible, but it is actually relatively easy to do. RVs offer the most accommodating and convenient mode of travel for road trips. Follow these simple steps and your RVing road trip will be one of the best and cheapest you have ever taken.

RVs of all sizes are available for purchase. Depending on the number of people you typically travel with and what types of accommodations you would like your RV to have, you can find RVs of all kinds. In addition to saving money on lodging on every trip you will take in your RV, you will also be able to take much more in terms of the accommodations of home, than if you were to take a road trip in your car.

If you are traveling with children chances are you are going to be challenged to keep them amused along the way. RVs offer plenty of room for children to play and roam around if they get bored along the way – which they inevitably will. Make sure to pack plenty of entertainment for the children. Some RVs include DVD players that allow children to watch movies and some can even provide you with the ability to hook up video gaming systems.

The beauty of investing in an RV for your family vacation will help with cutting the cost of lodging when you stay in your RV. This provides you with extra funds to do other things. You and your family can travel almost anywhere and save money by staying in your new home on wheels. You have the freedom to take any type of vacation you want from a mountain getaway to a stay on the beach. Whatever suits your family is what you will be able to do in your RV.

In researching your RV vacation you will find that there are plenty of scenic places for you and your family to stop along the way. Take a family of four camping for a week at a State Forest or National Park. Camping gear, campground fees (which usually run per night stayed) and travel fees will likely run you under \$1000.00. Your family can bond



while enjoying the great outdoors during the day and sleep in the comfort of your RV at night.

If your RV does not include a small kitchenette, you can purchase a small grill or stove, some of which are made particularly for camping, you can bring your own food to cook and save money on meals as well. Yellowstone National Park is a great place to visit with your family. In addition to being one of the most famous and historic campgrounds in the United States, you will find that Yellowstone provides your family with plenty of activities and entertainment.

If you do not mind sleeping in a tent but are not quite ready to rough it to the point of staying in shower-less campgrounds, consider an RV trip to one of many hot springs locations across the US. Hot Springs, Arkansas offers RV parking and campground sites. Enjoy the convenience of your RV and pitch a tent for your kids to enjoy. Hot Springs, Arkansas is found to be one of the most popular hot spring areas. Staying in your RV or pitching a tent will cut the lodging fees and you can enjoy days full of soaking in the soothing water. There are also a number of activities provided for children so the whole family can enjoy their stay.

There are countless campgrounds and RV parks throughout the United States and Canada that will provide ideal vacation spots for your family. Do some research and start planning your next vacation. You will likely find that the convenience of having your own RV is well worth it.