

## Cheap Vacations: Top Methods for Cheap Travel Discounts

Of all the reasons to put off a vacation, money should never be one of them. Cheap vacations are more plentiful than most think. All too often people will postpone taking a vacation because they feel that they cannot afford one. What people don't realize is that by doing some good research on the internet, newspapers and even the yellow pages deals can be found that make taking a vacation a lot more affordable than one may initially think possible. So take this advice and get out of the daily grind and find a cheap vacation that fits your budget!

The biggest problem with finding a cheap vacation can often be the airfare. If you are serious about putting together a cheap vacation then following a few simple rules can help you do so by first getting a good deal on airfare. Always look at traveling in the middle of the week rather than on weekends. Just do one simple comparison by looking up a Thursday-to-Thursday flight vs. a Saturday-to-Saturday flight and you'll see a big difference!

Another good method to reduce airfare and find a cheap vacation is to look at alternative airports near your departure and destination. Also, trying to be flexible with your time may allow you to take advantage of getting bumped at the airport for a free ticket or cash! When searching on the Internet for flights to take a cheap vacation, always look at several different websites. Quite often airlines have specific agreements with certain sites that you won't find by looking at just Orbitz or Expedia. For the best luck getting a cheap vacation airfare, always check various airlines' websites directly. For example, Southwest and Jetblue, which can often be the cheapest fares available, will make their best fares available only on their own website! Consider opening frequent flier accounts and begin getting points before your vacation by using specific credit cards, rental cars, or even filling out surveys. An finally, when considering airfare on your cheap vacation it is always best to book in advance so that you have time to compare and make flexible arrangements.

If you are considering ground transportation for your cheap vacation it is prudent to do the same research as for airfare. Deals can be found for rental cars, train fares, and even renting an RV if you do your research and book in advance. When renting a car, be sure to ask if insurance or roadside assistance will be added to your trip. Many times your own insurance may cover rental situations and a local or national automobile club typically covers roadside assistance. Trains are always a good option if you are traveling in America or Europe. This is especially true if you want to stop in multiple cities.

Once you get to your cheap vacation destination you will need somewhere to stay and of course hotels are the first choice that comes to mind. Hotels are not the only option for your cheap vacation. Consider renting an RV, camping, or if in Europe look into staying in hostels. If you are staying in a hotel with the family consider getting cots or rollout beds for the kids rather than an additional room. Sometime one large room with a pullout couch can be much cheaper than two regular rooms. Bed and breakfasts are another option for short stays. Look at the yellow pages for (online or off) for bed & breakfast information since they don't typically host websites or deal with travel sites.

A very good way to find deals on cheap vacations is simply by being a member to certain clubs and organizations. Check your Sam's Club or Costco membership for travel related discounts. AAA or AARP are two other good options that can help you out when you're hunting for a cheap vacation. How about the coupon entertainment books that are sold for a good cause every year? Believe it or not, many travel related discounts can be found in them!

The bottom line is if you methodically research each aspect of your trip from transportation to lodging you can find a variety of deals when all put together equal a great cheap vacation!

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### About the Author

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