

# **BAGS ARE PACKED**

## **The Traveler's eBook**

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## Introduction

For the inveterate traveler, for the not so inveterate traveler, and for all those in between -- here's an ebook that tells you all about where, when and how to go. No more worrying about where to buy your tickets, which hotels to book, and how much to spend on vacation. We have it all covered. This ebook discusses topics ranging from vacation planning, to the best airfares, to the best vacation destinations, to travel insurance modalities, to vacation rental details. Still wondering what you will do this summer?

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## 1. Planning For Your Vacations: Useful Tips

It's that time of the year when you and your wife sit and decide as to where you can spend some quality leisurely time with each other as well as with your kids! It's vacation time folks! A time for fun and relaxation! Get ready to pack your bags and put behind all your worries and tensions to enjoy a great vacation!

To make your vacation trip a roaring success and devoid of any unnecessary hassles/tensions, the word of wisdom coming down through ages is to plan out each and every minute details related to your vacations well in advance. Here are a few useful tips that will help you plan your vacations in the proper way:

- The first and most vital aspect about vacation planning is to plan out your budget. You can decide on the vacation destination depending on your travel pocket! So if you have fat pockets then you may plan out a luxurious vacation at some exotic destination putting up at 5-star accommodations and driving around in rented limos! But for the not-so-lucky mortals who have restricted budgets you can plan out some great vacations at cheaper budgets to less expensive locales and have a great time without putting too much strain on your pockets!
- Make all airline bookings 90 days in advance that will guarantee you reserved seats. So if you are planning for a vacation in December you must book your flight tickets in September!
- You can avail cheaper flight rates and heavy discounts on airfares, hotel bookings as well as on car rentals if you book early! Keep this in mind while planning a more economical vacation!
- Check on your passports and visas to ascertain whether they are all renewed properly or not. This is very crucial especially when you are traveling to a different country altogether. If your passport is due to expire within the next 6 months you might not gain entry into some countries!
- While vacationing in a different country if you have the desire to drive around the town on your own make sure that your driving license is certified and renewed. You must possess a certified international driver's license that permits driving in any part of the world.
- After you have decided on your vacation spot try and gather as much information as you can about that place from the city/state tourism departments. There are numerous informative travel sites on the Internet to check out. You can ask friends and relatives who have already visited the vacation spot before about the interesting places, activities, and other exciting facts to check out for at that destination!
- While booking your rooms at any particular hotel clarify all terms and conditions regarding

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the hotel's policy on 'guaranteed late arrival!' This ensures that you are not left in the lurch if you somehow check in late well past the check-in time of the hotel!

- Plan out all the essential items that you will need to pack. So it's best that you draw out a packing checklist before you start to pack your bags mentioning what type of clothes, footwear, skincare products, swimsuits, hats, warm jackets, and the list goes on you need to pack depending on the destination you are heading to for your vacation!

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## 2. How To Get The Best Online Travel Deal

If you are a travel freak then you must have surely assessed the benefits of online travel deals. There are innumerable travel websites featured on the Net who offer travelers like you around the world with attractive travel packages. Online travel deals are faster and hassle-free saving you a lot of money and time!

Here are a few guidelines that can help you secure the best online travel deal thereby making your traveling experiences more satisfying and tension-free!

- Before you think of embarking on the next family vacation or business tour or that dream honeymoon cruise make sure that you have an interesting travel deal at hand. This will save you thousands of precious and hard-earned dollars!
- The best travel deals are all online and you have to indulge in some careful and minute Net surfing to grab the best deals.
- You have to search several websites at a time comparing different airfares so as to get the best and lowest airfares.
- The online travel agents also provide you with information about flight arrivals and departures, off-season discounts on airfares, and low-cost airlines serving which of the destinations.
- So the key to finding the best online travel deals is to check out which of the low-cost airline services serves the destination of your choice.
- If you log into the home site of such low-cost flight operators you are assured of higher discounts, attractive travel packages and bonus frequent-flier points. All these facilities are for travelers booking directly without the help of travel agents (online/offline) who act as middlemen!
- To secure the best online travel deals how about traveling to destinations during the off-season! Thus winter will be the off-season for most European destinations, on the other hand, travelers hate to visit to tropical countries during summer! The festive seasons such as Christmas and New Year are the peak seasons for holidaying and vacationing. Search the Net to find exciting travel deals during the off-seasons. Amazingly some hotels and airlines offer discount rates and deals even in the peak season to attract greater traffic! Your online travel agent will surely help you out to get the best deal.
- If you are planning your honeymoon or a family vacation trip to some exotic destination be sure to get the best travel deals to suit your budget if you plan ahead and make your airline and hotel bookings early!
- While booking hotels and lodgings online most travelers like you who are always on the

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lookout for great deals must book early. You can visit hotel consolidator websites that reserve several rooms together at huge discounts and then resell them to prospective travelers at an attractive price.

- You can surf through the home sites of top hotels and inns that you want to stay in at particular destinations and compare the different prices and discount offered online by each one of them. You might just manage to get a better deal by booking directly without consulting an online travel agent!
- Even the last minute travelers on a sudden business/personal trip in case of emergency can avail attractive deals on airfares online! While searching for last minute travel deals on the Net you will come across several airlines offering attractive prices if a few seats in their flight goes empty. Visit last-minute travel sites for last minute air bookings.

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### 3. Travel Insurance: Do You Need Some?

The word “travel” conjures up some beautiful and exciting feelings of adventure, fun, frolic, leisure and relaxation! In this fast moving world where people are simply running from pillar to post in search of the so-called ‘perpetual happiness’ they sometimes realize that “hey! Even I need to chill out and relax, have fun with family and friends!” So traveling to various places for vacationing and adventure becomes a good option.

Whatever might be the reason for one’s traveling to different places, we have to admit that it does include a certain degree of risk. You might ask “what sort of risks?” Well if you talk about ‘risks’ then there are many! God forbid!

- You might not feel too well sometimes while traveling and you end up in a hospital with some serious illness ‘All Of A Sudden’!
- What if the vehicle you are traveling in runs into an accident and you are seriously injured!
- You hurt yourself while ‘Scuba-Diving/Surfing’...a sad end to your exotic adventure in some happening island!
- A plane-crash!!!!!!
- ‘Terrorist-Attacks’ seems to be the new age mantra that can spoil your traveling experiences totally!

So we may conclude that one needs to safeguard his/her life while traveling whether for leisure or something more serious and important. As we know that prevention is better than a cure, so why not making some concrete provisions for your own safety while traveling.

Travel-insurance covers more or less the various aspects of your travel to insure your full safety while traveling. Different types of travel-insurance policies have been chalked out and are readily made available by various insurance companies all over the world.

You just need to check out the various insurance plans and carefully go through the details and choose a policy as per your need.

Most people’s health insurance does not cover them when traveling outside of their home country. Unforeseen medical expenses can be very costly and it can be difficult in finding the best treatment in an unfamiliar area. Most travel-insurance companies will help you find a doctor who can treat you or they will evacuate you out of the country to the next place that can.

Most travel-insurance companies try to provide their customers insurance plans at cheaper rates that offer convenient high value cover at low prices! So you might land yourself with a real good deal that will surely make your traveling more safer.

Lastly, not every traveler wants or needs travel protection. But every traveler should know how to evaluate the risks involved in any trip from home and the plans that are available to cover those

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risks. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a best plan for everybody. Choosing a plan based on price alone or on the recommendation of a travel agent may leave you without the coverage you need. And buying a plan that does not cover the risks that are unique to your situation is not much better than buying no plan at all.

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## 4. Cheap Airfares: How to Find the Best Deals?

To make your travel experiences more economical and pocket-friendly you must search for the best deals while booking your flight tickets! Cheap airfares can cut down your travel expenses to a great extent. So you can enjoy your vacations and cruises a bit more luxuriously with that saved money in your pocket.

To find the best deals on cheaper airfares you have to put in a little effort. In the first place you've got to decide your exact budget for your upcoming escapade. If you have enough funds to go for a luxurious and grand traveling expedition then you won't bother much about the price of airfares. But for the budgeted traveler cheaper airfares are always a wise option.

You've got to scour the internet to find the best deals on airfares. There are innumerable travel websites offering comparative price charts listing the numerous low-cost airlines and the kind of services they provide. It's quite a daunting task to select the best deal from such a vast collection of airfares. You definitely need a systematic foolproof system that will remove all your confusions while finding the best deal on airfares at exceptional prices.

You can visit the various multi-purpose travel sites online where you can find flight tickets at cheaper and discount prices. You can choose the particular airline that serves the destination you want to visit. This is your one-stop shopping zone for cheaper airfares.

However don't be too hasty in deciding right away on a deal at these travel sites when you need a still better bargain. A few low-cost carriers are sometimes not included in the price list of these travel sites and you might just lose a better deal if you ignore these. So it's advisable that you search on for better and cheaper deals until you find one that suits you perfectly. You can check out the official websites of some top low-cost airlines directly. Most airlines offer special discounts, attractive travel packages and cash-saving frequent-flier miles that are not applicable when you book their services through any travel site/online travel agent. Also, you can avoid paying the extra charges that some online travel sites add on to your ticket prices as a fee for their services.

While looking for cheaper airfares you should avoid booking the tickets over phone through a booking agent. There are some airlines that charge extra for this service.

You can also grab a good deal on last-minute bookings of your air tickets in case of emergency. Sometimes if you are lucky you can get the lowest prices ever on such last-minute flight bookings.

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## 5. Traveling With Kids: Things You Need To Keep In Mind

When you decide to travel with your kids you need to make all kinds of arrangements so that they enjoy the trip in good health and spirits. Kids need added care and loads of attention while traveling on long trips. The age of your child/children will determine as to how you shall go about carefully planning your travel with them!

So if you are looking forward to a more safer and hassle-free traveling with your kids then just keep in mind the following useful tips:

- Kids and children are at greater health risks in unknown/new countries or places. Depending on the age of your kids you have to take adequate precautionary measures to safeguard their health while traveling to newer destinations.
- You must gain sufficient knowledge about various signs and symptoms related to commonly occurring travel related illnesses in children. Thus if required you must go in for medical counseling prior to the journey so that you can monitor your kids carefully for any signs of illness while traveling.
- So if you are taking your children to any tropical destination then don't forget to get them immunized beforehand against such deadly tropical diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasites, Yellow fever and so on.
- Always keep a first-aid box filled with basic medicines and other medical accessories ready while traveling with kids. You will need its help quite frequently especially if your kids are a bit too active and adventurous!
- While traveling never leave your kids all alone anywhere especially near water bodies such as lakes, seas, mountaintops near cliffs, while they are engaging in such adventure activities as mountain climbing, rafting, canoeing etc. to prevent drowning, falling, mountain sickness, high-altitude edemas, etc.
- Always remember that traveling with a toddler/infant provides a completely different set of challenges as compared to the problems and anxieties faced in case of older kids and adolescents. So you've got to be prepared and well equipped accordingly.
- While traveling with kids in the car you've got to make sure that all your car's seat belts are in a working condition. If you are child weighs more than 40 pounds then you must restrain him/her in age-specific car seats. Kids should always travel in the rear seat, which is the safest option.
- Kids get tired and bored quickly. So while traveling in car/train/air for greater distances make sure your kids are enjoying the journey! Play some foot-tapping music/song on your car CD/cassette player or let them carry their Discman/walkman along, bring along attractive toys, hand puppets, stuffed toys, plastic figurines, etc. for the toddlers/younger

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kids, encourage your kids to sing along with you, keep them occupied with tasty and non-messy snacks/finger foods so that they spend most of their time munching, try to talk up a storm discussing about the exciting destinations they will be visiting shortly, engage them in mind games, alphabet games, reading interactive books, etc.

- When you are traveling with infants/toddlers you will need to change their diapers frequently. So it is advised that you carry adequate amount of diaper disposal bags while traveling.
- While traveling in a car try and stop at convenient spots such as at a roadside motel/inn or a fast food jaunt occasionally. No doubt your kids will be tired sitting for long hours in the car. Let your kids stretch their body, play around a bit grabbing a bite or two of their favorite pizza! This will ensure that they don't nag you for the next few hours the least!
- While traveling in flights your kids might feel a bit uneasy. Ear pain during descent, and jet lag are the two most common problems faced by kids and youngsters similar to adults during air travel. Always keep some chewing candies and chewing gums handy for such situations.
- A travel games are ideal for active toddlers in transit by air/train/car! Bring along your car seats to install your infants and toddlers in them while traveling in air.
- Try and get the window seat for your kids while traveling by air or train always. This will keep them occupied throughout the journey looking at the scenes and the skies outside!
- Don't forget to carry blankets while traveling in cars so that you can wrap your kids at night while they sleep.

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## 6. Vacation Rentals Or Hotel Rooms?

Whether to choose vacation rental house or a hotel depends on your choice of lifestyle. In a hotel you will be provided with all the services including food and lodging while in a rental home you can lead an independent life where you are the master of the entire house.

Vacation rental homes are becoming popular day by day. Most people these days prefer to spend their vacation in private rental homes than staying in hotels. Presently rental homes are built on large locations. Most of them are situated on the sea beach or on the foot of the mountain. Vacation rental homes will provide you with all kinds luxuries and comfort. These homes have 2 to 3 bedrooms, family room, dinning hall, kitchen and bathrooms. They are well furnished with all kinds modern furniture. The kitchens are well equipped with an oven, dishwasher, micro oven and a refrigerator. The owner will also provide you with utensils, crockery and dish ware. Some rental homes even have swimming pools.

In almost all destinations you will be getting quality hotels to spend your holiday. Hotels these days are built in world-class locations. Presently hotels provide all kinds of amenities and facilities. They will give you excellent services like free home service, maid service, and laundry facilities. The hotels also have restaurants, pools and bars. If it is located on the sea beach you can have beach chairs, towels and sometimes a poolside bars. Some hotels even have hot water tubs, sauna and high-speed Internet connection.

### *Pros and cons of vacation rental homes:*

A vacation rental home can be your second home. Unlike hotels you are not locked in a single room and you can do a lot of activities. You will get the privilege of playing outdoor games like golf and tennis. Thousands of accommodations are available on countryside, foot of the mountains and right on the sea beach. The homes will save your money, as they are less expensive than hotels. So you can have a luxurious vacation without paying much.

In a private home you will get little to no service. You have to devote much time in cleaning, washing and cooking. You have to do your own housekeeping. If the kitchen does not have enough gadgets and utensils you may be in trouble. For sight seeing you have to arrange a car on your own as you won't get the facility of any package tour.

### *Pros and cons of hotels:*

You will be getting all types of services in a hotel. The biggest advantage is that you do not have to worry about your breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most hotels have their in house restaurants, pubs and bars. Hotels provide common rooms and amusement centers for kids. And hotels will arrange package tours for sight seeing.

As hotels give all kinds of services they are quite expensive. Besides you have to follow the rules and regulations of a hotel. Unlike rental homes you cannot lead a free and independent life. Here you have to stay within a confined area.

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## 7. Planning Tips For A Cruise Vacation

You are much excited about your upcoming cruise vacation. You are expecting to have a great time and want to bring back fond memories of the on-sea experiences that you and your family are looking forward to so eagerly! How about making your cruise experiences sweeter and hassle-free by planning your cruise vacation in a more organized manner before setting out on your cruise journey!

The following useful tips will help you to plan out your cruise vacation trip more efficiently.

- You need to decide upon your cruise budget at the very beginning so that you are sure about how much you can or you would want to spend on your cruise vacation.
- Then you need to plan out on who shall accompany you on the cruise. It can be a Family cruise vacation/Honeymoon cruise vacation/All-girls or All-boys cruise vacation and so on.
- Next thing to decide upon will be your cruise destination. Where exactly you want to cruise to and which kind of cruise liner appeals to you. So you've got to do a bit of detailed research surfing through the Net and looking through various cruise sites. Gather all the necessary information regarding the cruise destinations, the kinds of cruise ships heading to those destinations, the period of journey, the entire cruise itinerary, the prices and discounts, places covered by the cruise journey and other essential cruise details that you've got to check up prior to your cruising expedition.
- You can choose from a Caribbean cruise or an Alaskan cruise or a South American cruise or an exotic Trans-Atlantic cruise and many more cruise destinations around the world, whichever appeals to you and excites you more! Check out which kind of cruise liners serve these destinations online or through travel consolidators.
- Check out the various features and amenities, activities and entertainment options, etc. offered by the different cruise ships that will help you decide on the best one to take you to your dream destination amidst lots of fun and excitement.
- After you have selected the cruise ship that you want to travel in, the next thing to plan out is what category of cruise ship cabin is ideally suited for you in terms of your budget and tastes. Choosing the right kind of a stateroom on a cruise ship can be quite challenging what with so many different categories of cabins that are offered on all cruise ships.
- The best advice on planning out the ideal cabin for yourself is that you collect information about the various kinds of cabins available in the cruise liner you want to go in either online or from printed brochures. Then decide upon one that will suit your budget and style.
- Planning out on the port of departure is essential. This will help you to save money and

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time together. So it will be better if you could check up with the cruise liner as to which are it's home ports. Selecting a port nearer to your hometown saves you a lot of expenses on airfares or car fuel.

- You will also have to plan out on the types of clothes and dresses you want to pack in your cruise luggage. Mostly the ambiance on board of a cruise liner is very casual and fun-filled but you cannot avoid a few formal dinners or gala nights where you have to dress up in evening gowns, sexy dresses, formal jackets and tuxedos! So pack clothes and accessories accordingly.
- Planning for a cruise vacation essentially includes preparing a packing checklist that will point out as to what you need to pack, how you need to pack and how much you need to pack for a successful and tension free cruise vacation.

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## 8. Packing For A Cruise Vacation: Some Useful Tips

The time has come finally to embark on that exotic cruise vacation anticipated by you and your family for so long! To make your cruise vacation all the more enjoyable you've got to get your packing right.

For those of you who are more organized and believe in pre-planning your vacations including the packing, then the following tips will help you out with the packing hassles prior to a cruise vacation.

- You must pack all the essential medicines and a first-aid box in such a way so that they are handy in times of emergency. You would not want to tear apart your luggage to find a particular painkiller. Keep this bag of medicines and first-aid along with you in your handbag.
- You can pack some magazines, comics or novels that often prove to be useful while waiting at the airport.
- At the cruise terminal you will need your cruise tickets, transfer vouchers (from the airport to the ship) ready in hand. So pack them in your handbags and not in the suitcases or other luggage.
- Cruise vacations are a bit different from normal vacations. After you board the ship it might take several hours before your entire luggage gets delivered to your cabin. So what do you do if you move on from a colder weather when you left home to a warmer atmosphere in the cruise ship? Keep some lighter clothes handy inside some soft luggage that will be with you throughout. You can't afford to wait till the arrival of your complete luggage.
- If you are a fitness enthusiast then probably you would not wish to miss out on your daily exercise and workout routine even on your cruise vacation. So don't forget to pack your fitness clothing and shoes, etc.
- Using waterproof zipper top bags for your cruise packing helps to keep your clothes and other belongings dry. Helpful if it starts pouring while your luggage is being moved into the ship from the airport.
- Always pack suitcases containing both 'his' and 'hers' garments and accessories together in each suitcase. If you are traveling with your kids then pack some of their clothes along with yours too. In most cruise vacations there occur at times terrible mix-ups where your entire luggage doesn't arrive together. In such situations, a single suitcase containing some clothes and accessories for everyone provides temporary relief till the other bags arrive.
- Sunbathing is an enjoyable activity on board all cruise ships that are provided with lines of

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deck chairs on the decks and around the swimming pools. So take care to pack in your sunscreen lotions, sun hats, and dark glasses.

- Pack loose and comfortable clothing for day wear on the ship. Nighttime on the cruise liners are often exciting enough to keep you up till the wee hours of the morning. Las Vegas-style shows, Broadway-style skits, karaoke, piano bars, discos, dancing, casinos and jackpots will all add to your cruise ship experience. Keep these activities in mind while packing your clothes for a cruise vacation.
- Casual clothing should predominate your packing list, rather than heavy formals, as the ambiance on a cruise ship is normally light and informal. However don't forget to pack a few formal gowns, dresses and pantsuits for 'her' and diner jackets/tuxedos, ties and bows for 'him' if you're planning to participate in a formal party on board.
- For those wonderful shore excursions that are real fun while cruising you must pack your cameras without fail to capture pleasant memories forever. Pack suitable equipments and accessories to enjoy the beach activities such as snorkeling, sailing, kayaking, para sailing and many other types of water activities. Make sure you plan for these on your packing list.
- A hundred different persons on the same cruise ship might possess the exact types of suitcases and luggage as yours. What do you do to prevent an identity/ownership crisis? So as not to make a mess of it all, the best method is to attach unique identification tags in the form of colorful tapes, labels, straps or scribbling an identification mark/ name of your choice on the face of your luggage.
- Another essential requirement while packing for your cruise vacation is keeping handy a few meters of duct tape. After you have packed up all your suitcases and luggage, wrap them up with duct tape. This keeps your luggage absolutely 'shut' even if there is a zipper malfunction or broken hinges that are so regrettably common.

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## 9. Affordable World Travel Destinations

You want to be labeled as a travel geek as you just love to go exploring the new and unknown destinations across the globe. But you are restricted in your travel budget and cannot afford grand and luxurious vacations to exotic locales that burn a big hole in your weak pockets. Hey! There is no time to despair. Pack your bags and get ready for a fantastic and really affordable vacation in some of the most happening and beautiful places in different parts of the world!

You can definitely think of exciting and enjoyable vacations without having to spend a fortune. There are several cheaper travel destinations in various corners of the globe that offer wonderful travel and vacationing experiences at affordable prices. Few of the more popular and most-visited affordable world travel destinations are listed below:

*Las Vegas:* Welcome to the ultimate Casino destination on earth! Las Vegas is one of the most affordable amongst all the North American travel destinations. Gaming and casinos, jackpots and poker, art and culture, crazy nightlife, fabulous shopping, dance clubs and more high-pitched excitement attracts world travelers to this famous American destination. You can choose from innumerable vacation packages with hotels and resorts that offer discount rates for rooms, meals and entertainment. Las Vegas is just too irresistibly affordable and should be included in your must-visit list for sure!

*Buenos Aires:* If you are a die-hard fan of football legend Diego Maradonna then you will love to check out this popular South American travel destination that is quite affordable! This Argentinean metropolis with its thriving nightlife, football fans, shopping, cultural happenings, unique cuisine, offers the most affordable rates and fares that are pretty much reasonable for an international destination.

*Asia:* the continent of Asia provides you with several beautiful and exotic travel destinations at greatly affordable prices. This continent projects rich diversity in culture, terrains, religion, traditions, people, cuisine and the list is endless. Asia is just too irresistible. China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangkok, and many more such exotic destinations will provide you with exhilarating vacationing experiences at cheap prices. There are so many fascinating travel spots in Asia where you can get the most for your money in terms of lodging, food, entertainment, etc. and at the same time have a great time.

*Tioman Island:* and when we talk of Malaysia a must visit spot here is the Tioman Island. If you love sunbathing, snorkeling, diving, and frolicking at the beach then you have arrived at the right destination. You can have all the fun exploring this exotic yet greatly affordable travel destination situated at the southern end of the east coast of Malaysia on the South China Sea.

*Playa del Carmen, Mexico:* Welcome to this excitingly cheap Mexican travel haven where you are guaranteed high doses of fun and fervor! So you can enjoy a thoroughly cheap Caribbean vacation in this place that provides a multitude of cheaper lodging, dining and travel options.

*London:* London Bridge is falling down but not your traveling hopes to this all-time favorite and very affordable European travel destination that is thronged by millions of tourists from across the globe each year! You have plenty of options to choose from in accommodations, dining,

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transportation, sightseeing, and other travel essentials in London that will be soft on your pockets. You can make London the center point and travel to various far-off European destinations at affordable rates.

*Portugal:* UNESCO has labeled this European capital city as a World Heritage Site. It is an attractive and beautiful place with superb beach resorts, scenic landscapes, and relaxed traditional towns such as Faro and bustling cities as Lisbon that are so very tempting and heart-warming. You can enjoy a great vacation at Portugal at refreshingly low prices.

*Sweden:* this is another beautiful and charming vacation spot where you can savor fresh air, attractive landscapes and traditional culture within your budget. This affordable travel destination boasts of beautiful forests, giant lakes, progressive cities like Stockholm, scenic coastlines, idyllic islands, marvelous hiking trails in the Scandinavian mountains that truly beckons travelers from around the world on a cheaper budget.

*Budapest:* this is a fascinating and easily affordable travel option. This European capital city of Hungary beckons you to a world of interesting sights and scenes, great-value shopping, numerous thermal spas, panoramic view surrounding the River Danube, historical grandeur, and many more exciting travel features at very affordable costs.

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## 10. Most Popular Family Vacations In The US

When you are on a vacation, try to leave behind all your worries, the hustles and bustles of city life. So your vacation should be in a place where you can have the ultimate pleasure and relaxation. Before going out on a vacation sit with your family, consider everyone's choice and decide a place that will suit to every member of your family.

If you have not decided the place for your vacation here are some of the popular family vacation spots that can help you to take quick decision.

*Orlando, Florida:* Your kids will simply love you if you take them to this place. They will be overwhelmed to see the Disney World. There are lots of themed resorts in this place that engage the kids with lots of fun activities. The Polynesia Resort, Port Orleans Resort and wilderness Resorts are much popular. If you are tired of the fun activities don't miss to visit the Typhoon Lagoon, the massive wave pool and the Sea World. Orlando is favorite for adventure lovers as you can have real life adventure in Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center.

*Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona:* The journey to this tourist spot by Grand Canyon Railway is really very exciting and entertaining. The Grand Canyon National Park has many activities to give you. You can explore the National Park on a packhorse. The white water rafting trip in this park is full of fun and excitement. You will get plenty of guides to take you on this trip.

*Virginia Beach:* The Virginia sea beach is a common and popular spot to spend the vacation with your family. The beach is so crowded that you are bound to meet your long lost relatives and friends. This sea beach will provide you with lot of water activities. Enjoy the soothing sea breezes and be prepared to watch the dolphins. You will be spell bound to see the sunset on Virginia Beach. Don't miss the kayak ride along the sea routes and wild spaces. If you want something different from sea activities visit the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science center.

*Hershey, Pennsylvania:* This place will be an appropriate choice if you are a chocolate lover. The chocolate capital of US is famous Hershey's Chocolate world where you can have the wonderful experience of knowing A to Z of chocolate production. Do not forget to visit the amusement park and garden called Hershey Park built exclusively for factory's worker and families. Go to see the grand stalactite formation at Indian Echo Caverns.

*Montana:* Are you looking for a snow vacation? Montana will be your ideal place to spend the vacation in snow land. If you have a passion for skiing and snow activities there will be lots of choices starting from snowshoeing, snowmobiling, snow skiing, dog sledding, snow cycling, snow rides, to ice fishing, ice climbing, ice skating, ice sailing and speed skating. So Montana will be your perfect family vacation in winter.

*Olympic national park, Washington:* If you want to have a family adventure go this place. Be prepared to drench in rain as this area receives a heavy rainfall. You will have real pleasure to see the deep Crescent Lake and the Hoh Rainforest. The glacier-capped Mount Olympus is really appealing. And drive to Hurricane Ridge for mountain hikes.

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## 11. Best Ski Vacation Spots

Skiing is one of the most attractive and exciting sports that are enjoyed by people all over the world. A perfect ski vacation spot is one that provides excellent snow activities, special programs and fun events. Besides the activities, the vast and extensive snow-covered surroundings of the snow spots offer a panoramic view and thrilling skiing experience.

If you are planning to visit a ski vacation spot with your family then check out the following world-class ski resorts:

*Keystone Resort:* It is a world's premier ski resort situated in North America. The resort comprises of three mountains: The Keystone Mountain, The North Peak and the Out Back. Skiing here is a wonderful experience as you can ski from one mountain summit to another. Total skiing area in this place is 2,500 acres. They have lots of winter activities like ice-skating, sleigh riding, snow boarding, ice fishing and ski mountaineering. The resort also conducts different types of adventurous and exciting ski tours. There are more than 1500 hotels and condos with cheap prices in this snow resort that will provide you with all kinds of services and facilities.

*Heavenly Valley Ski Resort:* The resort is located between the borders of California and Nevada and it attracts thousands of ski enthusiasts from all over the world. This resort is an ideal place for newly wedded couples to have a romantic and adventurous honeymoon. Have a thrilling vacation with lots of winter activities like hot air-ballooning, snow mobiling, alpine skiing, snow boarding, snow shoeing and snow tubing. Heavenly valley presently offers ski tour packages. The ski resort will provide you with lots of fabulous lodging options including hotels, inns, private homes and condominiums.

*Whistler/Blackcomb Ski Resorts:* The two resorts Whistler and Blackcomb are located in the mountain ranges North of Vancouver, in British Columbia. The snow capped pristine mountain and the awesome scenery of the resorts will give you unlimited recreation and adventure. The activities that you can enjoy here are snow mobiling, heli-skiing, snow boarding, powder skiing, dog sledding and ice-skating. Also enjoy a thrilling snow cat tour. The resort has lots of ski tour packages to take you ski touring. Added to these; whistler/Blackcomb ski resorts are a shopper's paradise. There are many shops, boutiques and art-galleries where you can shop for plenty of interesting things to take home.

*Vail:* Vail is a wonderful ski resort situated in Western USA with serene scenes and high mountains but with little snow. This ski vacation spot will provide you with a vast ski-able area of 5289 acres. Apart from skiing you can have all kinds of winter activities like snow mobiling, ice-skating, snow shoeing, dog sledding, sleigh rides and hot balloon rides. You also have horse and carriage ride in Vail villages. But Vail is very expensive. Very rich visitors from all over the world come to this resort to spend their vacation. So make sure you have a fat pocket before going to this place.

*Breckenridge Ski Resort:* This picturesque and beautiful ski resort is situated in the amidst the

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Colorado mountains. In Breckenridge ski resort you can ski both on man-made as well as on natural snow surface. The winter activities include snowshoeing, dog sledding, snowmobile tours, sleigh rides and ice-skating. The resort has numerous ski and snow board clothing shops from where you can purchase skiing and snow boarding equipments. The resort has a number of lodgings and accommodations including hotels, motels, inns, Mountain View homes and condos.

All the above-mentioned resorts will provide you with abundance of incomparable shopping, dining, and nightlife. Spending a vacation in any of these ski resorts with your family and friends guarantees you a lifetime of fond memories and experiences.

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## 12. Cancun Mexico Vacations

If you are wondering where to go for a beach that has pleasant, warm and sunny weather, look no farther than Cancun, Mexico. The place is an exotic destination with wonderful beaches, archaeological treasures and pyramids.

Cancun is the most popular place for tourists in Mexico. If you are looking for a place for a honeymoon, then too Cancun will be your ideal choice. The pristine beaches and the crystal blue sea will simply take your breath away. Here you can indulge in lots of activities including deep-sea fishing, golf and tennis. On the east coast of Cancun you can get the taste of scuba and snorkeling.

When you are along with your family in Cancun don't miss the Xcaret Eco Park to get a taste of Mayan mythology. Your family and kids will love to see butterflies, birds and indigenous animals like jaguars and spider monkeys. The park has lots of live coral exhibits. For a taste of adventure, go to the Aktun Chen cave to visit an astonishing network of caverns. You will also bound to be fascinated by the stalagmite and stalactite formations in this cave.

Within a two-hours drive from Cancun you will get to see the ancient ruins of a Mayan civilization. Here you will get an elaborate idea about their rituals and customs. You will be overwhelmed to see their pyramids, sculptures, frescoes and stelae. The place is marvelous, surrounded by a dense forest.

Swimming is a wonderful experience in Cancun. Moonlight swimming in the sea is bound to be a thrilling experience. There are two underground rivers for snorkeling. If you are into watersports, enjoy the wonderful spas in and around Cancun. You will really enjoy a beachfront herbal massage after a busy day lounging in the sea beach. Ceiba Del Mar and Paradisus Riviera Cancun are famous for spas.

There are lots of hotels, inns and condos in Cancun. There are also vacation rental homes. If you don't want to stick to the tradition of hotels, go for timeshare rental homes and condominiums. The hotels have all kinds and amenities and facilities. They will give you all kinds of services including free home service, laundry service and even a high speed internet connection. The rooms are well furnished with all kinds of modern furniture and the kitchens are well equipped.

Spending a vacation in Cancun will be a fantastic experience for you and your family. The sunny sea beaches, glorious climate, innumerable activities and the warmth and hospitality of the Mexican people will make you feel like you are in heaven.

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## 13. Caribbean Vacation: Information You Can Use

The Caribbean has always been a hotspot for tourists from North America and Europe. The sun and the sand have generally been an ideal combination in drawing a steady number of tourists. A tourist has a huge range of options to choose from so far as the islands are concerned. And each island has its own unique feel and provides the travel with a new experience.

Barbados or 'Little England', as it is more affectionately known, is one of the prime tourist spots. Barbados has a unique mix of native Caribbean culture and colonial British influence. So while the food and music is typically Caribbean, one also gets to see English churches and can enjoy a horse race on a Saturday afternoon. Capital Bridgetown also boasts of a nineteenth century synagogue. Other places of interest include Welchman Hall Gully and the museum which was once a prison in the nineteenth century. The island's biggest event of the year is the Crop-Over Festival whose roots can be traced back to the colonial times. The festival is a three-week-long extravaganza of calypso, fairs and costume parades.

The Cayman Islands is again a very popular tourist destination. Famous for its coral reefs and reggae music it, it also offers a host of opportunities for adventure seekers. Scuba diving is very popular. The places to visit would include the Cayman Turtle Farm, the Hell (a rock formation), and the Grand Cayman's botanic park.

Jamaica is arguably the most beautiful and scenic of all the Caribbean islands. The beaches, the mountains, and the magnificent sunsets make the place the closest thing to paradise on the face of this earth. The port city of MoBay is the most crowded but it also comes with all that a tourist can ask for—from beaches to golf courses. Another attraction of Jamaica is the Blue Lagoon made famous by the film of the same name. And Jamaica is home to one of the most revered shrines for music lovers – the house of Bob Marley.

Trinidad and Tobago, although twin islands, are distinctly different from each other. While Tobago is much more calm and tranquil, in a way almost lazy. Trinidad on the other hand is crowded and always on the move. The twin islands provide tours for bird watchers and a number of hiking trails.

Many tourists opt for Caribbean cruises as it allows them to enjoy the life and energy of the islands as well as the calm and serenity of the sea. There are a number of cruise liner companies that operate in the Caribbean. The packages are also numerous. They vary according to the length of the cruise and also as to the destination. While one can get cruises for as little as \$250 generally the prices are higher and they can soar up to anything between \$1600 to \$2000. The cruises are generally for four days minimum and nine days maximum. While Royal Caribbean International tries to woo its customers with special offers like family cruising and wedding, Carnival Cruise Line focuses on the fun factor. Disney as always emphasizes their superiority when it comes to wholesome family entertainment. Celebrity Cruises again stress on their service and treatment their guests enjoy. The choices are many and it is no easy task to choose. What finally counts is the type of cruise you are looking for.

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## 14. Mexican Vacation: Places To Explore

Are you wondering where to spend your vacation or looking for a place for a honeymoon where you can get sun, beach, romance and everything else? Mexico can very well be the ideal place for you. The place is an exotic destination for couples. There are numerous beaches, archaeological treasures and many beautiful resorts, all of which will contribute to make a memorable vacation.

Mexico will be the appropriate place for you even if you have a tight budget. The flights to the place aren't too expensive, and could easily fit into a budget. Accommodation can be found that will fit your pocket nicely. The place is famous for its warm and sunny climate. The world famous sea beaches, sun and the gracious people of Mexico will give you real pleasure and fun. The ancient pyramids, music, fiesta and the warmth and hospitality of the Mexican people you will make you feel like you are in heaven.

Honeymoons in Mexico are a real experience. The sunny sea beaches, the sensual spas, a leisurely stroll on the beaches on cool evenings will be wonderful. The deep-sea fishing, golf and party scene on the coast of Cabo San Lucas will make your honeymoon exciting and charming. You have a choice of other popular honeymoon destinations like Cancun and Puerto Vallarta. You can get the taste of archeology, scuba and snorkeling on the east coast of Cancun.

You will get lots of hot places to explore in Mexico. Cancun is the most popular place of visit in Mexico. The pristine beaches, the crystal blue sea will simply take your breath away. The place has bars, pubs and restaurants, with even a great nightlife. A new destination called Huatulco is much talked about. The place is newly developed and presently compared with Cancun. The Mexican Government is investing a large amount to make it an eco-tourism destination.

Mexican resorts will provide you with world-class accommodations. If you don't want to stick to the tradition of hotel rooms, go for timeshare rental homes and condominiums. The homes will provide you with all types facilities and amenities.

Presently Mexico is the favorite destination for couples. Apart from its beauty the place easily fits one's budget. So have a healthy vacation at Mexican beach resorts amidst glorious weather and innumerable outdoor activities.

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## 15. Family Beach Vacations

Do you want to spend the vacation with your family in a beach? Starting from the warm sandy beaches to the cool beaches you will have a number of choices. Choosing the right place is just few clicks away. Each sea beach has something special and are different in their own way. Choosing any one of them will enable you to have wonderful vacation where you can have a life long memory and your family members and your kids will just love your choice.

When you are visiting the beach with your family consider certain things. See whether the beach has a reef, the sea should not have large waves, collect information about the vacation activities on the beach resort, and determine the budget and decide where to stay. Will your family prefer luxurious resorts, small hotels, private homes or condos? Here is some information about some of the beaches to narrow down your options:

*Napili Kai Family Beach Resort:* The beautiful sandy beach resort is a perfect place for your family. It is located on the West coast of Maui. The beach will provide you a unique family atmosphere including all types of family activities. The resort has four swimming pools, 18-hole putting green and a heated whirlpool. You have other sports activities as well. Besides adult programs, the resort has some children activities that are free of charge. While you are on this beach resort try cooking new meals, as the homes in this resort will provide you with varieties of kitchenettes. If you prefer to grill outdoors don't miss the barbecue areas. You can go to Maui any time of the year as they have pleasant climate throughout the year.

*Atlantis Paradise Island at Bahamas:* Every member of your family will like this place as the beach resort provides activities for people of all ages. Your kids will love to have the activities like the Aqua tots program and Discovery Channel Camp. You will have fun to see the marine exhibits and the water slides.

*Family Beach Resort in Georgia:* The sandy beach has a historic ambience, as the Georgia Island was once popular for having playground for aristocratic Americans. This beach will provide you with lots of sports activities including golf and tennis and it has summer programs for kids.

*The Broadmoor resort in Colorado Spring:* Go to this beach to have an adventurous vacation. Here you will have hoards of activities including horseback riding, mountain biking and spelunking. The resort has three outdoor hot tubs, three swimming pools, water slides and also a children's pool.

*Palm Beach in Florida:* Your kids will simply love this place, as it has a separate children's pool and enormous kid's activities. The resort has world-class hotels with all kinds of amenities. Children below 16 have a free stay with their parents in these hotels.

Each beach resort has something special that stands out from one another. Apart from these places there are also some unknown or new sea beaches. If you are real adventure lover you can visit those unknown places to explore new things.

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## Conclusion

There you have it, a ton of great advice to help you get the best deals for your next vacation. Take what you have just read and go find that perfect vacation spot. Last but not the least 'bon voyage and have a fantastic vacation!'

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