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Road Trip Money Saving Tips

By John Morris

If you want to get the most out of your vacation, you might want to consider a road trip. Most people would agree that the more money you save up, the better a vacation you can afford. A road trip is no different, so you will want to save as much money as you can to prevent wasting money on unnecessary items or services. Your best bet for vacations is to research your trip and plan to save as much money as possible.

1. Food Costs

Food is by far the largest contributor of lost funds when travelling, especially with kids. Kids will see all the food places you will pass by and they will beg you to eat even if they aren't necessarily hungry. By packing snacks and might be even a picnic meal or two, you will save money on unnecessary stops for meals and snacks. Stop at a rest stop to stretch your legs and enjoy a picnic lunch. If you are going to make stops to eat out along your trip, keep in mind that many restaurants offer either discount prices for children (usually under the age of twelve) or deals where kids eat for free. Research this prior to the start of your trip and if you are planning on stopping at a restaurant to eat, plan your trip around these eateries. Not only will you know that your child will eat cheap, by researching the restaurant beforehand you will also have an idea of the types of food sold and whether or not everyone in your family, even the pickiest eater, will find something they like.

2. Entertainment

Like food, you may be enticed to stop at all the different tourist traps you pass along the way. Alternatively, you could try to find free entertainment. Chances are there are upwards of hundreds of attractions along the way that not only will not cost you a dime to see, but will also amaze and entertain your children. Of course, some attractions that do cost money may be unavoidable. Theme parks and other major attractions will not be free but many do offer discount rates for children and senior citizens. It is a good idea to look into this before leaving. By having a plan of places to stop and knowing what kind of discounts are offered, you will be able to keep a much tighter budget.

3. Gasoline

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The price of gasoline is constantly on the rise. Filling up is therefore one of the highest costs of any trip. The smartest thing to do when buying gas is to fill up in advance of the trip so you aren't forced to fill up at a station that has unreasonable rates. Listen on the radio for gas price information if it is available in your area. Most large gas station chains offer points or rebate programs you can also take advantage of.

4. Accommodations

If your trip is especially long, you will need a place to bunker down for the night. Don't get caught at the last minute and be forced to stay at an overpriced hotel. Research your accommodations well in advance and if you can, book in advance as well. It is also a good idea to try to book a room at the hotel that offers the most complimentary services. Many hotels offer complimentary continental breakfasts that could save you \$40 or more because you won't have to buy breakfast for everyone the next morning.

For more great road trip related articles and resources check out

<http://villasource.info>

It's The Ride That Counts

By Selena Richardson

Having goals is a good thing. It means that you're willing to take the first step to achieving those goals. When you write down your goals, articulate them on paper, that's the first step to achieving them.

But what about the second step, the third and the fourth and so on? If you persevere and keep focused you will eventually reach the goals that you set for yourself. But when you finally reach that goal, how will you feel about it?

Will it be a sense of accomplishment and pride? Or will it be more of 'yeah I finally got it done' and you're just happy that you've gotten it over with?

The route you take while pursuing your goal determines how you feel about it at the end. It's the ride that counts. Have you been on a road trip where everything that could go wrong did? How did you feel when you finally got to your destination? Pretty worn out, huh? Now what about a good road trip where everything went smoothly? You were probably still tired depending on how long the trip was but you were a bit happier when you got there.

See, it's how you get there that counts. If you're miserable during the entire trip, you're going to be miserable when you get to where you're going. I've had too many road trips where everyone in the car was cranky during the entire ride and as soon as we got to our last stop, the crankiness only continued on. Sure we were glad to get there but only because we were finally there and able to get out of the

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car. We were just glad the trip was over and still quite a bit cranky too.

But when the road trip is smooth and fun with no accidents or construction or any mishaps, not only are you happy during the ride but you're ecstatic when you get to your final stop. You're not as tired and worn out as you would have been if it were a bad trip.

It's the same thing with your goals. You're more appreciative of achieving your goals if you have fun with it while you're working on it. So enjoy the ride, have fun and there will be a lot more satisfaction when you reach your goals.

Selena Richardson believes in following your dreams and creating the life you want. To receive more articles like this and a free ebook, subscribe to Creative Possibilities by sending a blank email to

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