

(1) What a real holiday should be like!

Some people love holidays, others find them to be worse than chores. They dread the idea of planning one, gathering all the travelers, paying for accommodation, reading maps and going on a journey.

But that is because they haven't gone for a truly enjoyable one, and that is why they dread the idea.

Let's change the scenario a bit, shall we?

Imagine a holiday... a REAL holiday without alarm clocks, tight schedules and squeezing on a dinky little tour bus with tons of people beside you. Imagine going on a holiday where you don't have to line up for hours just to get a ticket into a fun fare or the latest Harry Potter movie. You don't have to jump into another rat race now, don't we?

The purpose of going on a holiday is to get away from stress, not to create more.

The key is to be spontaneous about fun during your holiday. You can go on a holiday totally unplanned and yet have fun at the same time.

So how can one have fun with holidays? By eliminating the worries of money!

You see, there are many ways you can have a holiday without stressing about it too much. Say for example, if you choose a job that allows you plenty of time to travel, you won't even need to come out with a single cent for it.

A flight stewardess gets all the privilege of flying everywhere and visiting many different countries at the same time. The only drawback is that you won't get to see your family often (neither can you bring them along).

Of course you can also join companies that give you lots of incentives such as annual traveling. The key is to leave all the planning and money issues to them and the enjoyment to ourselves!

Basically, it is up to you.

Depending on how you choose your vacation – something like a hike up a mountain path or driving up to a suburb hanging around a farmland, all these are just some suggestions on how you can have a great time without spending money at all!

Hey, even spending a day camping near some park is also a great holiday depending on how you want it to be.

The choices are up to you as long as you don't expect too much from your holiday – just be spontaneous and seize the day!

(2) Religious Traveling

If you are a Christian or a Catholic (or consider converting to the faith), you may feel as though your life of servitude to God maybe something of a shackle preventing you from doing the things you really want to do in life like traveling.

This is not the right thinking – after all the bible says ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you.

If you have a passion for traveling, you might be surprised. God might grant you your wish. All you need to do is get on your knees and pray.

In any religious establishment, there will always be missionaries. People who are dedicated to bring the good news of salvation and the love of Jesus Christ to people of all walks of life overseas.

If you like sharing the gospel with foreigners and you absolutely love traveling even though you don't have the money to do so, then it could be a calling from God. You might be one of his servants He has prepared and He has a mission for you. You might fit in into one of His grand schemes and before you know it, you will be migrating to a different place for a year or so to conduct church planting work.

While you are at church, make sure you build relationships with the pastor/priest and deacons. This process might take years or months depending on your involvement with the local church.

The most important thing of all is to make sure that your church will be able to support you for your journey. When churches send their people on mission trips, you have to make sure you have ample support or else you will be forced to work and support yourself.

There are many places around the world where the gospel or the good news of Jesus Christ has yet to reach the ears of unbelievers. Especially in Asian countries like Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam. These are places worth visiting as well.

Of course make sure that your primary aim is God's work and not going there for leisure. It is just a side benefit but if you are faithful to God, he will bless you and you will have your prayers answered. You just have to take the initiative and serve Him first.

(3) Saving money with timesharing programs

What is a timeshare program?

A timeshare program or package is when you sign up for a share in holiday bookings in advance. You pay a deposit and a monthly fee for a number of installments in order to be a member of a special vacation club.

Depending on how much money you have paid (and the structure of their plans), the vacation club usually entitles you to a few nights at any of their hotels on their list.

It could be up to 7 days, it could even be up to 14 or 20 days! (You can even accumulate days and roll them over to the next year giving you a month's worth of holidays!)

Although you are paying some money upfront, the advantage of buying a timeshare package allows you to travel for 'free' dollars the moment you use up one of their dates.

Of course, someone you might not understand the jargon when you purchase such a package for the first time. You have to read your manual carefully and see where your savings are (50% to 70% of the initial retail price of hotel rooms) and where are the priority services.

Here are a number of things you can do with a timeshare package:

When you are not traveling, you can 'rent' out your rooms to another person and get them to pay you instead. Since you 'pay' for your rooms at a discounted price, you get a retail rate from the person who uses your room and you will be able to make a profit from it!

But here's the real deal. Certain timeshare plans are linked with investment plans (you pay for a few years but you get all your money back later on – like insurance or mutual funds).

You can even get major discounts with some timeshare plans. Discounts off your flight ticket is one example. You can book a flight ticket for half the price and save lots of money for yourself and your entire family. You can even sell flight tickets to others. Some timeshare plans even offer you discounts on their affiliate merchants (such as theme parks).

At the end of the day, as long as you recover your investment in terms of value, you are essentially traveling for ZERO dollars. It is up to you how you want to spend it.

(4) Travel free by going backpacking in the wilderness!

Are you sick and tired of fancy (and not to mention EXPENSIVE) hotel rooms? Eating at lounges and restaurants becoming a bore?

Maybe you might long for an adventure off the beaten path. If you watched the movie – *The Chronicles of Narnia*, you will probably be fascinated with the scenery.

You should probably consider backpacking. A trip down the wilderness and the fresh air is quite invigorating!

So How does backpacking work?

First, they start off by packing all of your necessary equipment into a backpack. This gear must include food such as canned food, water, and shelter (tents, sleeping bags and so on).

Others will pack equipment that will help them to get their own food such as fishing rods or nets. When someone goes backpacking, they usually stay at least one night in the wilderness or else it will be considered a day hike instead.

Most backpackers will go backpacking over the weekend while others will attempt long-distance expeditions that may last several weeks or months – usually when they are on a sabbatical or they have just finished their college degree. They usually get by as they obtain food along the way or rely on supply drops.

Sometimes, you might have to pay hiking ‘tours’ if you want to go hiking along a path with someone more experienced.

You might not need to fork out a cent because you get a free hiking holiday as long as you are willing to do some grunt work.

All you need to do is spend time working on the trip – like clearing the debris, building rock steps and building up campsites at strategic locations.

At the end of the day, make sure you prepare all these tools before you set out – a first aid, a Swiss army knife, flares, maps and a compass.

You don’t want to get lost in the wilderness or get eaten up by a bear.

(5) A role playing journey!

Wanna hear about a fun and cool idea on how to put together a vacation with a few close friends and spend close to nothing?

Here's what you will need.

- (1) Exciting games to play
- (2) Lots of frozen dinners and snacks
- (3) Plenty of excitement!

If you do not know already, designer board games are board games signed by the designer himself. The reason for this self-publicity is because these games are extremely fun to play and will entertain you for many, MANY hours.

Here's what you do: grab about 4-6 friends and drive up to a shack in the middle of the night. Squeeze everyone in a van and grab all your sleeping bag and other stuff.

Get *'The settlers of Catan'* – it is one of the most popular games from Germany and that game has players competing on the international level. The idea of this game is to build settlements and cities networking them using a series of roads. You get to challenge one another through trading of resources, cut-throat bargaining and robbery! It is a race to the finish to whoever builds the most settlements.

Why this game is chosen and best played off the beaten path is that it gives the element of development like a settler in the middle of no-man's land. The environment as the game is played.

Here is another great party game you can play that is highly entertaining. Gather your friends and stay at a wealthy friend's house. Before the game begins, everyone dress in suits and business clothes as though they are going for a business trip.

Then play the game *'I'm the Boss!'* The objective of this game is simple – the person who makes the most money through investing, recruitment and cut-throat bargaining is the winner.

The way the game is played is simple – the boss strikes a deal with the other 'investors'. He offers them shares in a major deal in return for their cooperation by lending their investors to participate in that deal. Everyone at the table bargains and forms alliances to be part of the deal.

The game becomes more interesting when wild cards are played causing the game to send investors away (thus unusable in a business deal), stealing resources, offering strategic alternatives and stealing the boss role. This game is hilarious as backstabbing among different parties are not uncommon.

These games are some examples on having a fun filled holiday without spending too much money. Just use your imagination and be creative and I guarantee you will have a holiday no one will ever forget!

(6) Saving money on food

Do you know that one of the reasons why people hate traveling is the fact that they have to pay cut-throat prices as tourists in a foreign country when they are looking for food?

The locals have a way of 'robbing' the money of any unsuspecting tourist and you don't wanna be a victim of 'robbery' in broad daylight.

Here are a few suggestions on how you can save a lot of money on food while you are traveling.

Eating in a group. It always saves money when you buy food in bulk. For example, when you go to a fast food restaurant, between buying a value meal and a family meal, you usually save more money by ordering a family (extra large) meal and sharing the food with other people.

There are many other ways to save money.

You can eat at the suburbs. There are many places where you can eat good and inexpensive food because the cost of living is rather low in those places. For example, places like Indonesia and Thailand where you can taste the local cuisine. The food is delicious and VERY inexpensive. For less than \$3!

There are many ways to save money on food while you are at the hotel as well.

When you book your hotel, check to see if breakfast is included. Make sure you eat every morsel you can find. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and once you are full, you won't find yourself spending tons of money during lunch time.

However, if breakfast isn't provided at your hotel for free, then try and look for a local bakery (or French Croissant) in the area. In Asian countries, try and look for 'Old Town' Coffee shops and 'Mamak' stores.

You can also consider putting a picnic together. A picnic is usually much, MUCH cheaper compared to eating at a restaurant.

Do you know that you can get lots of leftover food cheap at certain bakeries? They offer 50% discount off their bread on the ground of 'clearing stock'. That is also a good way to save money.

If you are from the U.S. or European country, never EVER eat at a fast food joint in an Asian country. Fast foods in Asian countries are much more expensive compared to the local delicacies. And more than often, you will find the helpings are much smaller as well (for example, Big Mac at McDonalds are probably a fraction of the actual size in the United States)

Eat Instant noodles or cup noodles. You can pour hot water into the 'cup' and *Voila!* Your Instant noodles are ready. Toast bread if you have brought a portable toaster. You can even drop by the local market and shop around. Buy the ingredients you like and cook your own food if your hotel room has a kitchen.

Just be creative and you will be able to find a way to save money on food.

(7) Finding a good travel spot

There are many places beneath our noses when we talk about finding a good place to travel to. Do you know that some of the best places could be right around the corner? Do you know it could exist in your own country without you knowing about it?

Take for example; people love to go to Australia to travel. However, some AUSTRALIANS may not think Australia is a good place to travel namely because it is their home land. The grass usually seems greener on the other side. Other countries usually is a better place to travel but not your own country.

Many a times, we don't realize that traveling to a local vacation spot saves a lot of money on air travel and the currency exchange rate. We rather go further only to find that certain places overseas are no different from our backyard.

Before setting off on a journey, you must do your due diligence. The best and cheapest way to check out the best travel spots is online!

Travelocity.com, Expedia.com and Orbitz.com are just some examples on how you can locate good air travel rates. <http://www.travelpod.com/> is a very good website that gives you information on many travel spots. They claim that they are the web's original travel blog.

These are the biggest travel booking sites very up to date.

Another good place where you can check out information before going there is the discovery channel. You can get a preview on all the best vacation spots without leaving your chair. Once you are sure where you want to go, and then place your booking.

How about animal planet, if you love exotic animals, you can switch on your TV and learn all about the best vacation spots and tourist attraction.

At the end of the day, you save lots of money learning about all these stuff without making costly mistakes such as going to all the wrong places only to find nothing is there.

You will also get a lot of understanding of vacation spots from other travelers because word of mouth is very powerful indeed.

(8) House exchange program

Do you know that a house exchange program is one of the most interesting ways to travel at low cost while having a very unique holiday experience?

Here are a few reasons why:

There are free vacations available worldwide.

Swap homes for a free vacation home-away-from-home. There are many people offering home swaps everyday through agencies. You get to live in someone else's home for free!

You get to enjoy living like a local, not a tourist.

Travel for less and more frequently. Stay longer if you have the time. It is a great trip for anything from weekend breaks to international vacations, and the best thing of all, it is even more comfortable than in a hotel and highly suitable for families

You will also gain a first hand feel when you learn about their local culture.

With the benefit of local knowledge from your exchange partners. Sharing knowledge with one another is such a fun thing to do. It's such a great way to travel!

Have you watched *'The Holiday'* by Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet?

This is an excellent movie about two women who have ran into problems during their lives decide to take a vacation by staying in each other's houses far apart from each other.

It is a done by a mutual agreement. Both decide to 'loan' their houses to each other and put themselves in each other's shoes as they live out their day-to-day lives with the people around them.

You can do the same thing to if you find the right people (who are hopefully trustworthy) and switch houses with them. Remember to do a background check on your exchange partner.

Alternatively, you can do house sitting for other people. If you choose your houses wisely, you might be chilling out at a Caribbean villa having a fun-filled adventure at a local farmhouse.

Most important of all, you must be very specific when it comes to signing agreements. You must be clear who pays the bills.

You have to be very clear with all the details. You don't want to get into any trouble with any of the locals (especially the authorities – you will never know if there are any drugs in the house!)

(9) Techniques on how to save money on accommodation

Hotel accommodation is one of the most money draining expenses when it comes to traveling. So how does one overcome such ruthless schemes?

Here are some tips and tricks that will help you save money on traveling.

Do you know that you can also save money on your hotel room through negotiation? Sometimes, it is very important to open your mouth and speak up. For example, when you call the hotel, you are arranging with the clerk or the administrator and not the manager or the boss. These guys only follow what the book says and are not flexible when offering rates.

Talk to them and negotiate with them what are the best rates for the season and see if there are any last minute cancellations.

If you are part of a business trip, you can organize a conference or meeting at a hotel and they will usually offer a much cheaper rate for you and your business partners. Once again, all you need to do is open your mouth and ask.

They will be more than happy for you to bring big business to their doorstep.

You can also opt to stay at the suburbs. In most places, you will pay a lot more for staying in the urban areas. Once you figure out the bus route or other forms of transportation, you will save on accommodation and still enjoy a day in the city. You need to know the train or bus routes so just ask one of the locals.

You can also stay at motels or guest houses. Guest houses are actually smaller hotels, with fewer hotel type services, are called guest houses. If you don't need a bar or a direct phone, you can save tons of money.

You can even try traveling off-season. Of course, it depends on the location which you visit. You can even arrange for Self-Catering. Cottages and small apartments are suitable because you cook and clean for yourself. These places are rented by the week and are much cheaper than other kinds of accommodations. Say for example, you and your friends could rent a place, which is big enough for five or six people, for a whole week, for not much more than the cost of a couple of nights for two in a good hotel.

If you are feeling adventurous, try traveling in an RV or a caravan. You will eliminate your hotel costs all together.

Remember to check out everything on the Internet. Never book a hotel before checking out the many online, accommodation search engines first. You can save lots of money doing your research in advance.

(10) Six tips on saving money while traveling

Wait till the end:

Do you know that hotels usually have left over rooms at the last minute? The moment those rooms go on sale, make sure you are the first one to get a booking there and you will find one of the best rates.

Your travel agent is taking a very huge commission:

There are many ways to find out if the travel deal is paying a lot of money to the middle man. All you have to do is compare your given rates to the ones presented on the Internet. If you see a huge difference then you should fire your agent!

The Internet isn't always the cheapest place to buy travel:

On the other side of the coin, some travel agents might have access to special deals that are not published on the Internet. Sometimes, the affiliate commissions on the Internet could be very big as well. As a matter of fact, you can find some rather good deals in your local newspaper as well. You can even look for someone who owns a timeshare and get them to book a room for you for a fee.

Two roundtrip airline tickets are sometimes cheaper than one:

Airlines use sophisticated computer algorithms to price their tickets. It tries to predict demand for tickets and sets the price based on the data. However, it doesn't always work properly. A one-way ticket can cost more than a round-trip ticket because the system thinks you're a big-spending business traveler, and charges more. The solution may seem weird – buy two sets of advance-purchase roundtrip tickets, but to use only half of each — a process called "back-to-back" ticketing. The trick works best with a short trip where you aren't staying over a Saturday night (the system thinks you're a big-spending business traveler if you don't stay over a Saturday night, too). Airlines frown on passengers who use this clever strategy, but they are actually quite legal.

Don't spend money on car rental insurance:

Don't worry too much about car insurance. You can rent with a credit card – Visa, for example, will cover you for most car rentals and you have to read the fine print carefully.

Get better rates on your hotel rooms:

Did you know that you can save money and still get a better room; all you need to do is to buy directly from the hotel's Web site. It typically treats its direct-booking customers better than outsiders. Hotels will deny they do this when they're on the record. But off the record, you can still get away with it.