

# Budget for Holiday Travel

Utilize our Holiday Club to see friends and family!

Traveling during the hectic holiday season can often be more costly than other times of the year. But spending time with family and friends is also important. Here are some helpful tips to consider when making holiday travel plans.

1. *Be Flexible.* Peak flight times are often the Wednesday before a holiday and the Sunday following Thanksgiving. This is also the peak time for long lines in the airline terminal and car rental pickups and returns. Traveling by car on these same peak travel days will also keep you busy on the roadways and gas stations. Consider extending your travel dates to less busy days.
2. *The earlier the better.* Make your arrangements as far in advance as possible, especially if you're flying. Airlines used to offer last-minute sales in order to fill planes, but with demand on the rise, especially during the holidays, they can keep rates higher. Book your flights and hotels early.
3. *Skip the rental car.* Take advantage of public transportation when available. It may be more convenient being able to come and go as you please, but if you're in an area with public transportation, you may actually be able to get where you're going faster; and for a couple hundred dollars less. You can also eliminate parking costs and often be dropped off at the front door! Check your hotel for shuttle buses to local area attractions that pick up and drop off often on the hour to meet your timing needs.
4. *Explore all modes of transportation.* Depending on your destination, you may be able to get a great deal on packaged vacations. For example, if you're headed on a cruise, the flight, possible hotel and transportation to and from the airport to sea port in a bundled package is often less expensive than individually booking these items separately. Consider busing systems. While the length of travel may be longer than by your own car or flight, the entire travel of getting to, being dropped off, eliminating parking and walking and then leaving your event, airport or attraction can take just as long as the bus.
5. *Consider alternatives.* More and more people are opting to put their holiday travel on hold – meaning, gathering with friends and family following the holiday season. The costs of travel will be less expensive; gift buying will even be on sale! Another consideration, travel outside of the country or to non-traditional holiday destinations since it is their off-season. You can often find travel bargains that cost less than your intended destination.

