

# 60 Ways to Save Money on Travel

## Transportation

### Airplane

1	Choose a credit card with a mileage reward program and use it to pay for expenses and get rewarded with free miles. Some best mileage reward credit cards are Chase Sapphire Preferred® Card, United MileagePlus® Explorer Card, and Southwest Rapid Rewards® Premier Credit Card.
2	Be flexible with your travel dates so it is easier to find a cheaper flight. Usually flying midweek and back midweek is the best deal.
3	Be flexible with the airport. For example, there are three major airports in the Washington DC region. Choose one with a cheaper flight.
4	Shop around for the best price on airline tickets from different websites such as <a href="#">Expedia</a> , <a href="#">Travelocity</a> , and <a href="#">Kayak</a> .
5	Check the airline's direct website. Sometimes the best unadvertised deals are found directly from the airline website.
6	Choose off-season timing to travel. Tickets to popular destinations are much cheaper during the off-season.
7	Subscribe to email alerts for "mistake fares" and flight deals from websites such as <a href="#">Secret Flying</a> and <a href="#">The Flight Deal</a> .
8	Delete your cookies or search for flights in incognito browser. Travel and airline websites remember your search, which may cause a price increase in your search.
9	Earn free airline miles. There are multiple ways to earn miles in addition to applying for credit cards, such as shopping through airlines' online shopping malls, using the registered credit card to pay meals at eligible restaurants, doing surveys (e.g., e-miles, e-Rewards), etc.
10	Check both round-trip flight and two one-way flights to see which one gives you a better price. Sometimes, your reward mileage points may only be enough to redeem a one-way trip. For the two one-way flights, see whether you can use the points for the more expensive flight and pay for the cheaper flight.

## Car Rental

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| 11 | Check the availability of free shuttles and public transportation at your destination to decide whether it is necessary to rent a car.  |
| 12 | Check whether your affiliated membership (e.g., AAA, Costco) gives a cheaper price for car rental.  |
| 13 | Compare prices at different car rental company Websites such as Hertz and Budget and major travel booking websites such as <a href="#">Expedia</a> and <a href="#">Travelocity</a> .  |
| 14 | Be flexible with car type. A compact car is usually the cheapest option.  |
| 15 | Bid for your car rental using <a href="#">Priceline.com</a> . Website forum on <a href="#">Bidding for Travel</a> and <a href="#">better bidding</a> helps people get the best bids on <a href="#">Priceline</a> and similar sites. |

## Road Trip

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| 16 | Install <a href="#">gasbuddy</a> app on your phone and enable GPS to find the cheapest gas near you or the next exist.   |
| 17 | Share the car driving with another family to share the cost of gas.  |
| 18 | Check tire pressure before the trip and make sure the tires are fully inflated. Driving on tires with improper inflation pressure may cause tire damage and affect fuel economy. |
| 19 | Avoid hours with bad traffic so not to waste gas.  |
| 20 | Plan your route ahead of time to avoid toll roads and road work, if possible.  |

## Lodging

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| 21 | Memberships of AAA and AARP qualify for special rates for hotel rooms at some major hotel chains.           |
| 22 | Check out <a href="#">couchsurfing</a> to save money by staying with someone who lives where you are going. |
| 23 | Bring a tent and camp. If you are an outdoors person, camping is much cheaper than staying in a hotel.      |

24	Stay with family or friends. Contact your family or friends ahead of time and let them know you are going to visit.
25	Rent an apartment or condo for week-long stay. It may be a cheaper choice as compared to a hotel. It may work even better if you travel with another family so you can share the costs of lodging and use the kitchen to cook meals.
26	Stay during mid-week. Avoid Friday and Saturday nights when the price tends to be higher.
27	Check out airport hotels. Airport hotels often offer competitive prices and they are also more likely to offer free airport shuttles and/or free parking.
28	Stay in a nearby town slightly outside the city center that you want to visit. You will need some additional commute, but you can save some money.
29	Check what facilities and freebies a hotel can offer. Here are a few things you want to know whether it is offered by the hotel: Free WiFi, free airport shuttle, laundry facilities, a pool, a fridge, and a microwave.
30	Join a hotel rewards or membership program if you frequently visit the same hotel chains. You can use reward points to redeem free nights.
31	Apply and use credit cards that allow you to earn reward points for hotel stays.
32	Subscribe newsletters from hotel booking sites such as <a href="#">Travelocity</a> and <a href="#">Hotels</a> . They often distribute deals and special coupons only to their members or email subscribers.
33	Check out a flight and hotel combo travel package from online travel booking websites (e.g., <a href="#">Expedia</a> ). Usually the combined package allows you to pay a lower price than you would if you make separate bookings.
<b>Food</b>	
34	Make your own meal and bring your own food to tourist attractions to avoid paying high-priced food.
35	Don't eat in restaurants in the tourist area. Meals tend to be cheaper out the popular blocks.

36	Bring enough snacks (e.g., granola bar, beef jerky, banana) with you. Do not buy expensive airport food.
37	Don't over order when you eat out, especially if you don't have a fridge and a microwave in your hotel room.
38	If you have a mini-fridge in your hotel, you can store snacks (e.g., yogurt, fruits) bought from grocery stores.
39	Eat where local people eat, including street food; skip the expensive international restaurants.
40	Stay at hotels where free breakfast is provided.
41	Use apps such as <a href="#">Groupon</a> and <a href="#">LivingSocial</a> to find local restaurant deals.
42	Eat out for lunch, not dinner. Many restaurants serve lunch specials where items on the menu are at a lower price when compared to dinner.
43	Members of AARP and AAA can enjoy a discount from some restaurants (check their website for a list of participating restaurants).
<b>Entertainment and Activities</b>	
44	Go to museums and tourist-attraction on free admission days. For example, Chicago History Museum offers free admission to IL residents every Tuesday in 2017; Children's Museum of Houston offers free family night on Thursday, 5pm-8pm.
45	In most big cities, you can buy a city pass that covers admissions for top attractions and saves you money.
46	Bring your student ID. You may get a discount for museum entrance, etc.
47	Rent a bike. It will not only save money on transportation but also allow you to fully enjoy the city.
48	Visit local morning markets. It is a great way to take the pulse of a new place. You can also buy cheap, healthy, and fresh food.
49	Check apps such as <a href="#">Groupon</a> , <a href="#">LivingSocial</a> , and <a href="#">CertifiKid</a> , to find deals for activities and events.

50	Search websites for free things (e.g., public park, library, zoo) to do in a specific city. You will be amazed at the number of articles on free or cheap things to do in many cities, such as DC, New York city, and Seattle.
51	Search and book free tours. For example, visitors can have a free guided tour to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Visitors to Dublin can book free walking tours of the city.
52	Free self-walks to enjoy the city’s culture, history, architectures, etc. How about visit a church or a university?
53	Visit natural scenes—mountain, beach, farm, etc.
54	Visit family or friends in that local area. They may let you know the most interesting things to do there.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
55	Bring copies of your important documents, such as passport and insurance documents, particular for international travel. So if for any reason you need to provide a copy of a document, you don’t have to pay the high price of printing and copying.
56	Think about whether you want to cancel existing phone plans. Find out if the contract can be put on hold during traveling.
57	For international travel, bring a credit card that won’t charge you an international transaction fee.
58	Make a list of stuff that you need to bring with you (e.g., umbrella, sunscreen, bug spray) so you don’t forget something important and have to purchase while traveling.
59	Ask the hotel front desk to see what necessities you can borrow or use, such as phone charger, umbrella, etc.
60	Pack your suitcase efficiently to save excess baggage fees.