

Trip Tips

Learn some tips while traveling in the Transportation Museum's exhibit.



Consider a stop-over

If money is as important as time is to you, or more important, consider a stop-over.

You're heading to Paris for a summer vacation on WOW airlines, the Icelandic-based carrier. Iceland has always been on your bucket list of places you want to visit.

So, on your way to Paris, stop for a few days in Iceland and you'll save money, and visit a place that you've always wanted to go to.

Pre-book airport parking

It can save you money if you pre-book airport parking, and that's not the only benefit, either.

Sometimes, you're a little stressed out on the vacation: *Did I pack the snack bag? Do I have the fanny pack?* If you've already pre-booked your airline parking, that's one less thing to worry about, and it can save you a few dollars to spend on your trip.



Would you ‘camp in someone’s garden’?

If you’re ready for an adventure when you’re traveling, try out a different accommodation when traveling.

CampInMyGarden.com allows users to list backyards or gardens that they would be willing to let people sleep in. Sometimes, the properties are fenced in, allow pets, allow barbeques, and sometimes have outdoor bathrooms.

For \$23 a night, you can sleep about 15 minutes from downtown London, and it comes with an outdoor refrigerator, sink, and toilet.

A guest house a block away costs \$71 a night—only \$50 more—but certainly not worth the adventure of sleeping in someone’s garden!

If you don’t feel completely safe, travelers leave reviews of properties that you can read before ‘booking a garden.’

Consider joining AAA

Whether you travel often or not, you can save a lot of money by joining AAA. For \$56 a year, you can join AAA and receive tons of savings on vacations!

By providing a AAA membership number at check-in, you can save about \$20 per night at Best Western hotels (based on a random search) and 20% off Hertz car rentals, every day.

This might not sound too good—but if you travel to New York City in September, and spend one night at a Best Western and purchase a Hertz car rental for one day, you can save \$34.43 on a hotel and save \$9.46 on a hotel—that’s savings of \$43.89 in one day!

Additionally, by joining AAA, you receive free towing, AAA battery service, and other benefits while not traveling, like 40% off Cinemark Movies tickets and 10% orders at the Hard Rock Café.

Eat like a local

When you're traveling, be sure to eat at places that are off-the-beaten path or in residential areas.

Instead of grabbing a burger at McDonald's on your way home from a ferry ride, get back to your hotel or vacation rental and search for local restaurants near you.

In tourist areas, foods are usually overpriced and don't taste too good, but if you go to a smaller café, in a quieter area of town, you may experience a better meal.

For example, if you were visiting San Francisco, we wouldn't recommend eating at Fisherman's Wharf for dinner. Instead, find a small, local place tucked in the hills of North Beach.

Save on currency exchanges with 'Happy Hours'

If you're traveling abroad and stuck at the airport trying to find a currency exchange, don't go for the first exchange center you see, search around the airport for the most favorable exchange rate.

Also, the currency exchanger *Travelex* has 'Happy Hours.' During these promotion times, Travelex will give you special rates on selected currencies. If you want to try and find these deals, exchange your money online for this promotion at *travelex.co.uk*.

Take public transportation!

Yes, you are visiting a Transportation Museum, not a taxi museum, but by using public transportation to get from the airport to your hotel, or around the city, can save you a lot of money, and, sometimes, time.

A taxi costs **\$180** between London/Heathrow and downtown London, and takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes. If you take the Tube, it's one line directly into London. The Tube takes about 40 minutes and is only **\$8.00** per person.

Also, when traveling through downtown, public transportation saves you money and time! Subways don't have street traffic, and buses sometimes have 'bus only' lanes.

Ask for an upgrade

When arriving at a hotel or picking up your car rental, be polite to the employees, and, when you feel like it's the right moment, ask for a slight upgrade. If you've booked an economy car, ask if, "by any chance, I could have a slight upgrade to a compact car?"

You can do the same at a hotel, too—ask if by any chance you could have an upgrade to a room with a better view, which might be more expensive if you had pre-booked it.

Don't rely on an upgrade to help you out. If you didn't pre-order a rollaway bed because it cost \$10, don't expect to get an upgrade to help you out.

Skip the tour bus, rent a bike

Once or twice on a vacation you can purchase tickets on a tour bus and go see the tourist spots. But the other days when you feel like exploring, we recommend renting a bike for a day and exploring the city.

You can see different places than a car while riding on a bike, yet you can still get around places quickly. Many buildings have bike racks where you can lock your bike.

Check multiple sites when booking hotels

When looking for the best hotel prices, check many sites. We recommend *Hotwire*, *Hotels.com*, *Rocketmiles*, and *TripAdvisor* when booking hotels.

Hotwire has “**secret hot rates,**” discounted hotel prices for “secret hotels”—hotels that aren’t named when you’re booking them. Hotwire is especially helpful in big cities.

Hotels.com has a special promotion, which allows you to **stay free for one night** once you purchase ten nights.

Rocketmiles is a hotel-booking site that lets you **earn points for many different travel partners**. For example, when booking a hotel, you can earn points for travel partners such as American Airlines, Amtrak Guest Rewards, JetBlue TrueBlue, Southwest Rapid Rewards, and many other partners.

Lastly, TripAdvisor is a helpful booking site when booking hotels because it tells you **traveler’s reviews and experiences**, as well as showing you prices from many different booking sites, such as Expedia and Booking.com.

Also, if you’re staying in a big city, check VRBO (Vacation Rental by Owner) and Airbnb. These vacation rental sites can help you find a property, too.

(For more information on TripAdvisor, VRBO, and Airbnb, see the Transportation Museum’s exhibit, *Around the World with Trip Planning*.)

Research what *TripAdvisor* has to say

Every time we go on vacation, we check TripAdvisor to see the best attractions and hotels. TripAdvisor has surprised us with quaint motels, and saved us from bad hotels, too.

We've also enjoyed the attractions that TripAdvisor recommends, like small, off-the-beaten path, not-too-touristy attractions.

You can also review places on TripAdvisor. Join today!