



## Winter Vacations

With all the bad press about the economy, you may be wondering when you will take your next vacation. There is not a more cost effective time to travel than this winter.

With a decline in demand for travel, airlines, hotels and cruise companies are slashing prices and offering great incentives for those who love to travel. Some of the best deals in recent memory are happening right now, ranging from half-priced rooms at resorts to lower airfares, all resulting in a silver lining for vacationers.

Less crowded airports due to reduction in flights, will make this winter the perfect time to travel. Fewer flights will likely result in planes arriving at their destinations on time, and congestion at the airports will be reduced.

Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, has been offering three free hotel nights and three days of theme park admission with a purchased four-day stay. You can experience the “Happiest Place on Earth” at a real value! Taking your family on vacation for the holidays will create lasting memories and reduce the hassle of shopping.

Mexico is on fire with travel opportunities for vacationers! If you have always wanted to visit the beaches and experience the action of Mexico, now is the time to make your plans. An all-inclusive resort in Mexico is a “one-stop shop” providing all meals, all drinks, activities, entertainment and a variety of watersports. Set sail on a catamaran and snorkel in the crystal-clear waters; swim with the dolphins, or experience the thrill of whales up close. Your vacation is planned and paid for in advance so when you arrive at the resort you are “worry-free” and able to escape from pressures left at home.

We are seeing deep discounting with most cruise lines. The winter destination cruises, which include the Caribbean and Mexico, are offering 15% savings. The real pricing values are with the upscale cruise lines. If you have always dreamed of sailing on one of the 5-star cruise lines, your opportunity for true value is here, with up to 50% off on select sailings!

The amazing offers with many of the luxury cruise lines include free airfare from Los Angeles. An even greater value is their discounted Business Class airfare; why travel in coach when you can travel with extra leg room and in more comfortable seats.

Within the last week prices for Hawaii have also dropped. Airfares that were \$800.00 round trip to Honolulu have dropped to under \$400.00 (plus taxes) per person. The resorts as well have dropped their prices offering great promotions. By pre-paying your hotel for stays of four nights, you can stay two additional nights free! Many of the resorts are offering free daily breakfast as well (\$25.00 - \$40.00 value per person).

Prices for Hawaii today compared to a year ago are far less expensive! Even the finest resorts have reduced their room rates, instead of paying \$725. per night at the Four Seasons Resort, the prices are being reduced to as low as \$544. per night with a fourth night free! Certain room categories will even include rounds of golf and complimentary spa treatments.

Finally the dollar is stronger in Europe resulting in fabulous travel values! It is nearly 25% less expensive to take a vacation this winter than last year, as reported by British Airways.

Our office is seeing European specials reported on a daily basis that are just amazing! For example, spend 8 days in Italy for as low as \$1339.00 per person, or London and Paris for 8 days as low as \$1475.00 per person. These are phenomenal rates and understandably date restrictions will apply, but they are available.

If Asia or the South Pacific is high on your list of desired destinations, trust me there are great deals there as well!

We can't do anything about the current financial crisis, but at least we can help you get away from it for a week or so! The trend right now is value, don't miss the boat!