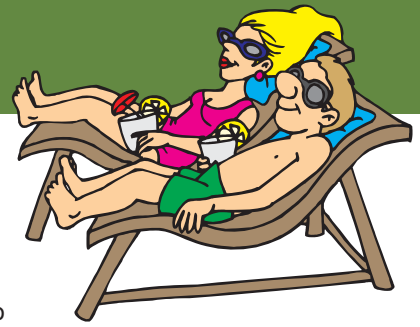


Tips for travel on a budget



Accommodation

We save as much as \$45 a night by going on holiday in the off-peak season, and staying during the week in school terms. We often manage to get extra beds and an ensuite thrown in for free!

Contributed by Lee Golder

You can register with the Australian House Sitters Directory, which is Australia-wide, so they can put others in touch with you when they are going away. You do have to pay a fee for this, but it is still much cheaper than other alternatives in the long run. You get to stay in some lovely places for free, and many require housesitters long term, which is a terrific way to save money! Visit (www.housesitters.com.au) or phone 1800 502 002

Contributed by Tracie Dixon

Backpacking

Travel light when backpacking. We backpacked around Australia to find all we were carrying far too much. It is much easier to make regular stops for washing (machines are everywhere for \$2.00 - \$4.00). It is well worth the price for a lighter load on your back!

Contributed by Jackie Jones

I found the Trading Post to be the cheapest place for back packs when planning my travels overseas. I bought a model which converted to a lockable suitcase with straps for a quarter of the price of camping stores. It lasted for years, until I was able to sell it again through the Trading Post - for the same price I bought it for!

Contributed by Lyn Reeves

Flights

Try ringing various large companies such as DHL to get a cheaper flight overseas. I travelled as a courier with one airline and got a return trip to London for \$1 200.

Contributed by Sheryl Gallagher

Webjet (www.webjet.com.au) have last minute deals and specials on airfares. We have been able to travel for up to a fifth of normal flight prices in the last year.

Contributed by Tina Griffiths

Travel Destinations

The Queensland Department of Transport offers a free map of overnight camping areas for those driving through North Queensland. Some even include hot showers. If you own a caravan, you can even camp at Petrie in Brisbane for two nights free!

Contributed by Anthony Pike

We bought two adult three-day 'See Sydney and Beyond' passes. Cost was \$149 each excluding travel, or \$205 with travel passes. This entitled us to free entry to many sites, and discounts for food outlets and shops. We managed to pack in visits to over a dozen destinations, using all public transport and saved \$107 each! Call 1300 661 711 for information.

Contributed by Kirstin Nicholson

Car Rental

Save thousands on car hire.

By asking the car rental companies if they have any vehicles that need relocating, you can get them at a highly discounted price, saving up to \$200 per day. My friend picked up his rental car in Adelaide and had three and a half weeks to drive it down to Darwin. The reason for the discount is because it saves the company saves on having to pay an employee to drive the vehicles and often having to fly them back. My friend also was able to hire the car for a few extra days at a discount. It is worth asking any rental company for savings like that!

Contributed by Amanda Bailey

General

Before you travel, shop around for the best rate in foreign cash and travellers cheques. Don't exchange at airports to avoid commission or fees. You can often get a better rate in the city, where there is much more competition between banks and foreign exchange outlets.

Contributed by Angelique Scott

When going on holidays, check the Hot Docket or Shop-A-Docket websites for coupons that may come in handy for the area you're visiting (<http://www.hotdockets.com.au>). We saved a lot of money when we went away using these coupons on food, drink and local attractions. It also helped make decisions about where to go, which can be a problem!

Contributed by Annette Gregory

Plan your trip with the help of your local library! They have all kinds of travel guides to borrow. Simply photocopy the pages relevant to your particular trip. Not only does it save money on having to buy an entire book, it also weighs much less in your luggage when you travel!

Contributed by Clare Reeve

Planning Your Holiday Online

You can save a bundle by searching the following websites for all your holiday and accommodation needs:

www.needitnow.com.au

www.dingoescape.com.au

www.standbyrates.com.au

www.wotif.com.au

www.travelmate.com.au

www.octopus.com.au

www.oodles.com.au

www.quickbeds.com.au

Contributed by Andria Folbigg

This free tip sheet was produced by Simple Savings, 'The Secrets to Saving Money in Australia' website. It was funded by our members area, known as the 'Savings Vault', which contains over 9,000 money saving tips that work. For more information, or to sign up for our free monthly newsletter, fill in the form below, or visit our website.

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