



TIPS ON TRIPS



Tips For Last Minute Travelers

(NAPSA)—If you haven't planned your family vacation yet, it's not too late. Long weekend getaways have lots to offer families needing an eleventh hour getaway. Not only are many travel rates low, but according to the Travel Industry Association of America, 82 percent of Americans are planning to take at least one trip this year. So, there's still more than enough time to fit in an old-fashioned, American road trip.

Travel expert Lynn O'Rourke Hayes, editor of FamilyTravel.com, has designed a series of tips to help Americans whisk their families away from the daily grind and toward rest and relaxation—all while saving a few bucks along the way.

"A lot of families are choosing to travel by car this year and may not be aware of a few simple tips that can make their trip much more enjoyable and cost-effective," Hayes said. "Keep in mind that a vacation doesn't have to be elaborate. The most important thing is to spend time together." Hayes offers the following advice for last-minute family travelers:

1. Take a weekend trip to a location around the corner like a local state park or nearby historical landmark. A simple change of scenery can be refreshing for all.

2. Prepare for a road trip with children by coming up with a list of interactive games and activities to keep the kids engaged. For example, keep a running tally of who first spots the most states' license plates.

3. To cut costs, consider staying with relatives or friends who live in desirable locations instead of renting a hotel room. (Don't forget to bring a small gift or token of



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your appreciation.) What a great way to make up for lost time with close family or friends while signaling the importance of maintaining those bonds for your children.

4. Eat a hearty breakfast before hitting the road. An empty stomach can lead to fatigue, anxiety, motion sickness and a general loss of energy. Family-friendly restaurants such as Denny's feature meal options that are a great value for a range of appetites, from hungry teens to light eaters. Also, the restaurants are usually located on major thoroughfares making them easy to find and access along your route.

5. Research your destination ahead of time. Check the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau or Chamber of Commerce Web site. Some city attractions offer discounted or free rates on designated days. Thumb through the coupon books in hotel lobbies and travel stop kiosks for information on discounts, or ask your hotel concierge about recommended local bargains.

For more helpful tips visit www.familytravel.com, www.seeamerica.org or visit www.dennys.com, for restaurant locations.