

Vacation Trends

The American Vacation—Endangered Species?

(NAPSA)—If all work and no play indeed makes Jack a dull boy, then you could say Americans as a whole are becoming dangerously dull. The sad truth is, we are working too much and not vacationing near enough. A recent study by Expedia.com shows Americans hand back an estimated 415 million vacation days per year and that 30 percent of employed adults in the United States forfeit earned vacation time every year. In fact, in one recent year, workers handed back to their employers an estimated \$21 billion in unused vacation time.

Part of what's keeping millions of Americans from taking their well-deserved, annual vacations is the often hefty price to take the trip. Even a quick weekend getaway can pinch your pocketbook when you factor in still steep gas prices, as well as ever-increasing lodging and restaurant costs.

But if you've traveled recently, you may have noticed that many flights are full, popular resorts are booked solid and more and more people seem to be hitting the road to get away for a few days. So perhaps there is still hope for the vacation-starved American family.

There are several reasons why but one of the major factors is the heightened awareness of travel bargains available through online booking. There are a few sites, in particular, which are among the best kept secrets in travel. By pur-



More and more families are finding travel bargains to get away on vacations.

chasing their vacations through Web sites like FairfieldGetaways.com, Timeshares.com and Extra holidays.com, savvy travelers are saving hundreds of dollars while visiting some of the top resort destinations in the country. Fairfield Getaways.com site, for example, offers travel deals at up to 70 percent off of the retail price in destinations such as Las Vegas and Orlando. Many of these packages include a variety of travel perks that will help you save even more—with benefits like dinner certificates, theme park tickets, gaming chips and other extras.

These Web sites can be a great way to research and find affordable vacations, with big savings over retail prices. When you take that next vacation, leave the laptop at home and your work behind—so that your trip is all play and no work. Now that wouldn't be dull, would it?