

# Find Top Deals for Your Next Vacation

Summer is right around the corner; have you begun planning your summer vacation? Whether you're planning a trip for the whole family or a romantic getaway for two, there are many ways to save money on every part of your trip.

## Social Couponing Websites

Social couponing websites like Groupon and LivingSocial now offer more than discounts for services at local businesses. In partnership with the leading travel website Expedia,

**Groupon Getaways** offers significant discounts on packages to top travel destinations all over the world. Subscribers are sent a weekly email that features several of the travel deals that are being offered for the week.

Interested parties then have two weeks to purchase a deal. Similarly, **LivingSocial Escapes** also sends subscribers weekly emails outlining its latest travel deals. When you purchase a deal through LivingSocial Escapes, you can refer it to your friends; if three of them purchase the deal, you get yours for free.



## 3 Ways to Get a Deal through Social Couponing

- 1. Scoop up deals before your trip.** A few weeks before you leave, sign up to receive deals specific to the city or region you're visiting.
- 2. Read the fine print** to find out when the deal expires, if there are blackout dates and the amount of taxes involved.
- 3. Do your research.** Call or go online to find out the regular cost of the hotel, restaurant or other amenities offered to make sure you're getting a deal.

**LivingSocial Escapes** serves more than **10 million** subscribers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

## Membership Pays Off

**AAA** offers last minute travel deals that can save members up to **70%** on their vacations. Through **AAA Vacations**, members can choose from deals on cruises and vacations to locations around the world. AAA's Best Price Guarantee ensures that members receive a good deal—if a member finds a cheaper rate for the same exact itinerary within 24 hours of booking the trip, AAA will match the lower rate. Other cruise benefits include champagne upon arrival, priority boarding and pre-paid gratuities. Members can choose from guided or independent land vacations that often include amenities such as free hotel stays, free meals and travel insurance.

Members of **Costco** and **BJ's Wholesale Club** have access to exclusive deals on cruises and vacation packages to Europe, the Caribbean, Mexico, popular island locales and domestic destinations including Las Vegas and Disney World. The popular warehouse chains also offer discount deals on rental cars through the major rental car companies.

# Looking for a Last-Minute Vacation Deal?

No problem; these websites have you covered.

**Travelzoo.com** emails a free weekly newsletter to its 24 million subscribers with the best travel deals of the week, as researched by their deal experts.

**LastMinute.com** offers last-minute packages up to 14 days before departure and up to 17 days before holiday weekends.

**Moments-Notice.com** gives users access to low rates for luxury cruises and vacations for a small annual membership fee.

**Laterooms.com** offers discounts of up to 50% off hotel rooms in top destinations all over the world.

**Orbitz.com** allows users to set fare alerts for particular weekends and take advantage of last-minute hotel and cruise deals.

If the thought of sifting through travel deals on the Internet gives you a headache, consult a travel agent to gain access to exclusive deals instead.

**MouseSavers.com** offers last-minute deals and discounts to all Disney resorts and theme parks.

## Top 10 Travel Destinations in the United States

1. Orlando
2. Las Vegas
3. Los Angeles
4. San Francisco
5. New York City
6. Miami
7. San Diego
8. Washington, D.C.
9. Honolulu
10. Seattle

Source: American Society of Travel Agents, Hot Spots for Summer survey

## For a Great Vacation Deal, Just Tweet



Jason

**For travelers who are still unsure about Twitter, here's something that could change your mind:** Your favorite airlines, hotels and cruise lines are tweeting deals every day to their followers. Want to snag a deal? Create a profile and follow your favorite airlines, discount travel websites, hotel chains, rental car companies, etc. However, keep in mind that once a deal has been tweeted, it can be retweeted in a matter of seconds. If you see a great deal, be ready to pounce.

**Twitter Tip:** Use the Twitter search bar to find the tourism bureau for your destination and learn of upcoming events, festivals and other fun activities occurring during your stay.

**6.9%** of people use Twitter to plan their vacations.

Source: Frommer's, July 13, 2011