

10 tips for making holiday season travel easier and cheaper

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I'm all about the [travel tips](#), particularly when we are about to head into the busy [holiday travel](#) season. If there is a way to make it through the gauntlet faster with less hassle, I'm in!

Along those lines, Bob Diener, co-founder of [Getaroom.com](#), has 10 tips for travelers on how they can make the most of their travel time (and dollars) this holiday season:

1. *Book early! Rates are expected to go up as it gets closer to the holidays. Early booking also means you can grab a room at preferred hotels before they fill up.*
2. *Heading out of town for Thanksgiving? Consider traveling early morning on Thanksgiving Day and returning on Saturday to avoid the rush of travelers and to take advantage of lower hotel room rates.*
3. *Want to enjoy a carriage ride in Central Park? Rates in NYC go down by as much as 60% after December 15th, so wait a little while to find a hot deal.*
4. *Alternate airports can offer you substantial savings to top destinations. Consider Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach instead of Miami, or choose Midway when flying to Chicago instead of the massive O'Hare airport.*
5. *Traveling on Christmas Eve can be a lower option on flights and hotel room stays. Return the following Saturday for even lower costs.*
6. *Top destinations for the holidays according to Getaroom.com are Anaheim, San Diego, Cancun, Fort Lauderdale, Honolulu, Palm Springs, Atlanta and Atlantic City.*
7. *Las Vegas is very inexpensive the weekend after New Year's. Let the party die down and enjoy great bargain rates such as The Quad, with center-Strip location for \$20 a night. NYC is even on sale during this weekend – rates at the Millennium Broadway Hotel can be found from \$170 a night.*
8. *Use the phone to find the best rates! Getaroom.com offers personalized service with its unpublished rates that can only be acquired through its call center. More than 30,000 hotels participate in the exclusive program.*
9. *Grab flights early in the morning as they are often the cheapest option during peak flight times. You'll be up early with excitement anyway, so you might as well get your trip started.*
10. *Get to the airport early. Due to overbookings during busy times you don't want to miss your flight as you might have to wait hours or days to get another one. An extra hour at home isn't worth all of the frustration of missing a flight.*

Early is always good. Book early, arrive early, travel early in the day and leave a day earlier than the masses. You can see from Diener's tips exactly how much hassle and hard-earned cash you can save with this slight adjustment. And if your job is flexible, why not give it a shot? While heading back home on Saturday after Thanksgiving instead of Sunday might seem like cutting your vacation short, it does give you the ability to get life back in order before returning to work on Monday—far more appealing than spending the night before returning in traffic or waiting on delays at the airport.

Personally, I was shocked at how much you can save on a trip to Las Vegas on the weekend after New Year's Eve. I've never been (I know, that seems strange given that I live in Los Angeles), but with that low of a price, I think I've just found the motivation to go exploring. And the New York options for the thrifty traveler are actually really good compared to what I've had to pay over the years during peak travel times. And, of course, the Getaroom.com rates at the more than 30,000 participating hotels give you some fantastic options all across the country.