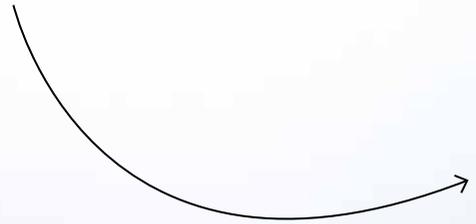


# HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON A *girls trip*

Girls trips are times to unwind and relax with your besties, but many of us put them off because of the expense. This year, you can save money while making forever memories!



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## FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY TEND TO BE THE BUSIEST (AND MOST EXPENSIVE) DAYS TO FLY.

### » GO IN THE OFF-SEASON

If you go in the off-season, your flights will be cheaper than if you travel at peak season. The lines will be shorter, the service will be better, and your activities might cost less, too. As a general rule, avoid November, December, major holidays and spring break season, but it's a good idea to research your destination to see if it has its own peak season. Peaks vary widely depending on a location's weather, seasonal foliage, festivals and other factors.

### » FLY DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday tend to be the busiest (and most expensive) days to fly because business travelers are going to and fro, and leisure travelers are headed out on or returning from long weekends. Since airlines use demand to set prices, these days are also the most expensive. Shoot to leave/return on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Our top source for airfare deals: *ScottsCheapFlights.com*. The free subscription option has saved our families a ton of cash!

### » BOOK AN AIRBNB INSTEAD OF A HOTEL

You could save hundreds of dollars a night if you rent a house for a larger group instead of booking hotel rooms. You'll also enjoy more together time: making meals in the kitchen (more savings), time in outdoor spaces, sitting around the fire pit, maybe even soaking in a hot tub.

### » ROAD TRIP

Maybe flying isn't your thing. If you are traveling with a smaller group who loves a little adventure, get in the car and make the travel time part of the experience. Stop at historic sites, roadside attractions and local odd spots—you'll be surprised at what's out there! **Bonus:** You get to sing along to your favorite tunes along the way (really loud and really bad).

### » WATCH FOR HIDDEN FEES

It's happened to all of us: We get a great hotel deal (yes!) only to arrive there and get slapped with hidden fees. Research your hotel ahead of time to make sure they aren't going to nickel-and-dime you. In larger cities, parking charges are often unavoidable, but Wi-Fi, resort fees and even beach access charges can get a little ridiculous. Call ahead and ask what's free, and better yet, ask if they will waive the fees. They often do.

### » USE Groupon ON THE GO

Groupon isn't just for your home city. You can use it wherever you are. When you are planning, set your Groupon app to the destination of your choice, filter it to find deals on restaurants and local activities, and use it to guide your itinerary. Best of all, Groupon has a "Beauty and Spas" filter, showing you where you can save big on facials, massages and more. What girls group doesn't want that?

### » PLAY THE POINTS GAME

Even if you aren't a million miler, sign up for airline points and hotel rewards programs—most are free. Every time you fly, you'll get points to redeem for future flights, rooms or other travel-related expenses, like car rentals. And if you fly frequently with a single airline, sign up for their credit card. If you use it for eligible expenses, you'll be surprised how quickly you will rack up miles for free flights (just make sure you pay it off every month). For more tips on how to win at playing points, see *ThePointsGuy.com*.

### » CONSIDER AN ALL-INCLUSIVE DEAL

An all-inclusive is just what it sounds like: accommodations, food, beverages, activities and sometimes even tips are provided for one flat fee. Some deals include airfare and airport-to-resort transportation as well, which can save you major bucks, especially if you book during a sale. Imagine getting to your destination, dropping your bags and not worrying about a single thing until you have to pack up to leave... Check out *CheapCaribbean.com* for sales at hundreds of resorts all over the world.

**Hot Tip:**  **American Tourister**® packing cubes make packing and staying organized super easy. \$10.98 at Walmart