

AAA Recommends Travelers Budget \$244 Per Day

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According to the 2008 edition of AAA's Annual Vacation Costs Survey the recommended travel budget for two adults traveling together in North America is \$244 per day for lodging and meals.

"Vacation spending depends on personal preferences and means," said Michael Petrone, director, AAA Tourism Information Development. "While you can expect higher lodging rates in metropolitan areas and during peak travel seasons, travelers can save by making advance reservations and taking advantage of discounts."

According to the survey the average cost for lodging in North America is \$164 per night, double occupancy, based on the most recent published rates for AAA Approved(R) accommodations listed in the AAA TourBook(R) guides. For two adults traveling and dining together AAA travel experts recommend budgeting \$80 a day for meals, not including tips or beverages. These costs are based on dining at full-service restaurants. If traveling by car, AAA recommends visiting www.aaafuelcostcalculator.com to estimate fuel costs and using the AAA TripTik(R) Travel Planner to plan the best route.

The most expensive city for vacationers is Honolulu, where the average published prices for meals and lodging for two adults total \$673 per day, followed by New York City at \$606, Miami-Miami Beach, \$370, San Diego, \$361 and Las Vegas at \$358. The most economical choices include Tulsa, Okla., with an estimated daily food and lodging cost of \$179, followed by Albuquerque, N.M., \$179, Wichita, Kan., \$194, Oklahoma City, Okla., \$194, and Fresno, Calif., \$207.

Actual lodging rates will vary according to factors including region, season and discounts available. Visit <http://www.aaa.com/> or speak to your AAA travel agent to book lodging and determine exact costs. If traveling with additional people AAA advises contacting the property in advance for an extra-person charge. However, if traveling with children within an age limit set by management -- usually up to 14 -- there may not be an extra charge.

Meal costs can be reduced by eating the main meal at midday to take advantage of lower lunch prices at restaurants. Many restaurants also offer children's menus and "early bird" dinner specials at reduced prices.

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