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## articles

### Relaxing Off Season Travel

Everybody looks forward to summer--time to get away from it all with a trip to the beach, the mountains, or some exotic destination. But who says you have to wait for summer to take a vacation? By traveling in the off-season, you can avoid the crowds and save money, making your time away all the more relaxing.

The weather is still mild in the late spring and early fall throughout most of Europe and North America, making these ideal seasons to plan a trip. Many major airlines reduce their fares significantly as of October 1 and don't raise them again until late May, so bargains abound. Look for roundtrip fares to Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and London for as low as \$300. Car rental companies and hotels often slash their prices during the off-season as well, and you can often put together a whole vacation package for half the money you might spend during prime travel months.

Looking for something more unusual? Autumn is a beautiful time of year in Japan, when the temperatures are mild and the countryside is vibrant with color. And when the Midwest is below zero in February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, averages close to 80 degrees. Other destinations throughout Southeast Asia and the Far East offer equally appealing weather conditions and plenty of sites to see-check with your travel agent or online travel service for more information.

If you don't mind missing throngs of tourists crowding the shops, restaurants and hotels of some of the world's most exciting cities, then consider an off-season getaway. Any time is the right time for a great vacation!



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