

VACATIONS



Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

- To get to their vacation destinations, 82 percent of Americans drive, 15 percent fly, and only 3 percent take a bus, train, or boat. Only 5 percent of the world's population has ever flown in an airplane. Flying tips:
 - Use e-tickets. Printing your boarding pass at home allows you to use recycled paper and bypass the check-in counter. Cardboard boarding passes are often difficult to recycle because of the ink used and the magnetic strips placed on the back.
 - Bring your own luggage tag. Using a permanent tag saves time at the ticket counter and eliminates waste from flimsy paper tags.
 - If possible, only take a carry-on and skip the checked luggage. On average, an airline passenger will wait twenty-five minutes at the carousel to pick up luggage. Also, the electric motors that operate carousels are energy hogs. If you must check a bag, keep it as light as possible. The more weight on the plane, the more energy it uses.
- Plan ahead for a greener getaway. Vacation tips:
 - More and more hotels are becoming eco-friendly because it saves them money. Wherever you stay, use the same linens and towels during your visit. Washing fewer sheets and towels can save up to 40 percent of a hotel's water use.
 - Use online maps instead of paper ones. They're free, and you can print on the blank side of used paper, and then recycle after you're finished. Try <http://www.randmcnally.com> or <http://www.mapquest.com>. If you have a GPS navigation system in your car, you can eliminate paper waste altogether. If you have an old map, use it as gift wrap instead of throwing it away.
 - Take public transportation once you reach your destination. In major cities, try <http://www.hopstop.com> to plan your bus and subway routes. Stay close to the attractions you want to see to cut down on travel costs.
 - Use and refill a nonplastic water bottle, canteen, or thermos during your trip.
 - Skip the souvenirs. Most trinkets end up on a closet shelf—or in the trash. Use a travel journal and digital photographs to capture memories, then only print the photos you like. If you must buy souvenirs, purchase from local manufacturers to help support the local economy.
- Before you leave for vacation:
 - Unplug appliances (except refrigerator) to avoid using standby energy.
 - Turn off the lights. Use timers on outside lights instead of letting the porch light burn constantly. Or leave the lights off and ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your house.



- Stop the newspaper to avoid waste and save money. Ask your newspaper to credit your account for the days you are going to be away.
- Close the shades. Depending on the season, drawn shades will help heat or cool your home while you're on vacation.
- Set your thermostat to fifty degrees during cold months and eighty-five degrees in the summer. Depending on the length of your trip, you could save as much as \$100 in heating- and cooling-related energy costs for your home while you're on vacation.



OUR MISSION

Blessed Earth is an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips faith communities to become better stewards of the earth. Through outreach to churches, campuses and media we build bridges that promote measurable environmental change and meaningful spiritual growth.

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