



NEWS

# Travel and Adventure show this weekend in Denver

We speak to Budget Travel expert Russell Hannon about how we all can stop dreaming and start traveling...

Author: Jaime Berg  
Published: 3:00 PM MDT March 23, 2018  
Updated: 5:53 PM MDT March 23, 2018

Denver is beautiful. A lot of us wouldn't live here if we didn't think that. But every once and awhile, you need a vacation. That's where the Travel and Adventure show comes in.

It's happening this weekend at the Colorado Convention Center. There you can meet with destinations from all around the world, meet travel celebrities -- and learn about ways to travel smart and cut your travel costs.

One of the speakers this year who will be sharing his travel knowledge is Budget Travel Expert Russell Hannon. He wrote a book called 'Stop Dreaming... Start Traveling.'

We asked him a few questions about getting the most bang for your buck while traveling.

## 1. What do you recommend for saving money on airfare?

*Russell: The most expensive mistake we make when booking airfare is we decide where and when to go before starting our online search. The most important factor in landing a great fare is to give yourself options.*

*We tend to be flexible with our departure time and are willing to depart at 6 a.m. or maybe a day or two earlier to save a few dollars, but that hardly scratches the surface. Let's say you want to escape the cold every winter, if you give yourself a 4-month window (Dec – March) and will consider any beach destination in either the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, or southeast Asia, you will get a better deal every time over someone who first decided where they are going and when.*

## 2. I want to go to \_\_\_\_, what strategy do you recommend for me to get the best airfare?

*Russell: Let's say the most you are willing to pay is \$\_\_\_\_ round trip. There are a number of websites that are free to use where you enter your desired itinerary with instructions to alert you when it finds a fare below your price ceiling. They are [AirfareWatchdog.com](http://AirfareWatchdog.com), [Yapta.com](http://Yapta.com), [FareCompare.com](http://FareCompare.com).*

### **3. For someone leaving on a weekend road trip, what would you recommend they do to cut their travel costs?**

*Russell: To learn of free and inexpensive festivals/farmers markets, sign up to event newsletters in the city you will be visiting. Just Google the name of the city you will be visiting with the words 'event newsletters'. That's how I learned of an MLB Cactus league festival in Old Town Scottsdale. There was a stage in a park with bands playing and they interviewed MLB players on stage. It was free to attend and I would not have known about it had I not signed up for a local event newsletter.*

*If you want to visit a National Park, be it the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, all 401 U.S. National Parks are free to visit on April 21 in celebration of National Parks Week.*

### **4. Looking ahead to summer, what would you recommend for keeping travel costs low during peak summer travel season?**

*Russell: Camping is part of the summer experience, and you wouldn't believe how many FREE campsites are nearby. [FreeCampsites.net](http://FreeCampsites.net) is a free app that is a map with a pin showing each free campsite. Click any pin to see what utilities are on-site (usually basic, sometimes only an outhouse). You can also read reviews posted by people who've stayed there, and it includes Casino/WalMart parking lots. The app shows 10 free campsites west of Boulder and a dozen south of Denver.*

*Every summer, thousands of university dorms look to offset their operating costs by renting out rooms. Many dorms post listings at [UniversityRooms.com](http://UniversityRooms.com):*

- University of London's Goldsmiths campus (SE central London): rooms from 40 pounds/night.
- Sicily: Roma Scout Center, 25 Euros
- Canada: UPEI Charlottetown from \$40 US/night.

*Below you can find more info about traveling on the cheap!*

Travel and Adventure Show at the Colorado Convention Center:

Show hours: Saturday, March 24: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (opens at 9:30 a.m. for travel agents and trade)

Sunday, March 25: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tickets: One-day tickets purchased onsite are \$15 for adults 17 and over, and two-day adult tickets are \$22. Children 16 and under, when accompanied by an adult, are admitted free. Active Duty Military and four family members, are admitted free with a U.S. active military I.D. at the Advance Registration/Will Call counter.

*Copyright 2018 KUSA*