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BEST OF TRAVEL

Gas prices be darned. Have creativity (and a nearby college) will (still) travel well

by Kim Schneider | Traveling Coach
Thursday May 08, 2008, 8:51 AM



Soak up the gothic-style architecture with your \$15/night room stay at the University of Chicago.

In spite of the inevitable: [gas prices](#) that will just keep rising into June - and beyond - I'm convinced we can still travel, even without a boost in the vacation budget.

But as travel guru [Arthur Frommer](#) notes, tough times will require a whole new way of travel thinking, ie: trading the suite at the Holiday Inn for one, say, in a university dorm.

Hey, it's better than [couch surfing](#), an intriguing option, but potentially a little unsettling when those donating a couch put in their profiles hobbies like "spooning." And you can get a stay even in pricey London for as low as \$24 a night, without even having to apply for that Fulbright!

Colleges like the University of Chicago offer open dorm rooms to tourists for as low as \$15 a night, U-Cal. Berkeley for \$54/night, and Polytechnic University--two subway stops from downtown Manhattan- for \$75/night for an apartment, according to [Journeywoman.com's "Girls Guide to University Sleeps."](#)

More budget travel tips:

Take advantage of desperate measures called for by desperate times, ie: those ubiquitous gas rebate deals.

The [Traverse City region](#), the [state of Illinois](#), and [BandBfinder.com](#) are all pitching big gas rebate deals at many of their properties but may require a stay of a certain number of nights. But check individual deals, too. In a search for a a one-night Traverse City hotel stay, one [beachfront property](#) offered a \$25 rebate for a one-night stay, \$50 off a stay of three or four nights.

Put common sense to work

This may be the year to pack the PB&J and enjoy lunch at a scenic roadside park you're already paying for instead of stopping at a restaurant. Find more money-saving family travel tips at the [Family Travel Network](#).

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by Kim Schneider

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