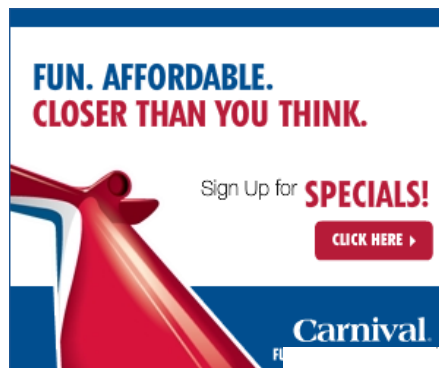


[Cancun air/hotel, 4 nts., from \\$402: Oasis Cancun All Inclusive, 3 stars](#)

[Puerto Vallarta air/hotel, 4 nts., from \\$431: Buenaventura Grand Hotel & Spa, 3.5 stars](#)



### Are All Inclusive-Deals Worth It?

By Nancy Dunham

Sure it'd be great to start planning some trips for the season but unless you plan in advance you'll pay astronomical prices.

Although that's been true in years past, the weak economy has made prime-time travel more affordable than ever, said travel experts.

"I think that moving ahead, as we head toward last spring and summer...there will be a lot of push by resorts for family travel," said Gabe Saglie, senior editor, Travelzoo. "You'll see a lot of resorts letting kids stay free, eat free, and incentives on airfare. They're trying to get families as the whole to travel

#### Where to find the deals

Yet when you call hotels and ask about deals, it seems there's no spectacular rates out there. What gives?

The answer is in all-inclusive packages, said travel experts. Many times resorts and hotels won't lower prices for those that book directly. The reason, experts said, is perception.

"You are going to get the best deals on air plus hotel – vacation packages when you book everything together, said Genevieve Shaw Brown, senior editor, Travelocity. "The reason that happens is because often hotels don't want to lower their stand-alone price...[because] when this [economy] turns around, they don't want people to expect them to have lower [than standard] prices."

#### Maybe it's right for me, maybe it's not

Although all-inclusive packages are tempting, they're not generally for those with rigid schedules, said Shaw Brown. "The lower your budget, the more flexible you need to be," she said.

But that doesn't mean those that book separately can't get deal. They just need to put more elbow grease into the process.

The best way to get separate travel deals is to sign up for all the travel search engines possible. Brown Shaw notes that Travelocity's "Fare Watcher Plus" allows clients to track up to 25 city "pairs" to ensure the best match for the client's airline needs.

Travelzoo's Saglie also recommended not ignoring extras that come with airfare or hotel rates.

"Sometimes you can get packages where a resort will throw in 20 percent off spa treatment or other extras," he said. "If you do your homework strategically you can certainly save."

*"Questions? Ideas? We want to hear them. [Contact](#) RedPlum's editor with feedback and suggestions for savings tips and articles to help you live better,*

*for less!"*

[Send to a Friend](#)

Past Articles

- [Stop The Trash Talk: Timeshares Can Rule!](#)
- [See the World for Free With House Swaps?](#)
  - [4 Travel Gear Must-Haves We Love](#)

[see all archived 'Travel' articles](#)

Article ID: 2934

Rate this article:



average rating: 4



## ASK REDPLUM

Q: What is the difference between an all-inclusive resort and an all-inclusive plan?

A: If you go to an all-inclusive resort, you pay one prices for the room, meals, beverages, taxes and tips, and on-site activities, according to Expedia.com. There are also all-inclusive plans at some resorts which also offer "traditional" plans where you have the option to just pay for room, meals, and drinks individually.

Got another question? Ask it here!

name (required)

email (required)

question (required)

[ask](#)