



Earn up to 25,000 Starpoints® [APPLY NOW](#)
 Up to 6 Free Nights at a category 1 or 2 hotel. Terms, Conditions and Restrictions apply

Who, What, When, Where and Why: The Five Ws of a Bargain Beach Vacation

by TFB EDITORS on MAY 25, 2012

By [Jan Ross](#)

I'm writing this article in a tiny, circa 1920s cottage called [Old Love](#) on Tybee Island, Georgia. The hot pink exterior is complemented by the bright turquoise and white interior where lazily turning ceiling fans evoke that special, incomparable beach mood.

[Mermaid Cottages](#) offers a wide variety of cottages all over the island in different sizes, styles, and prize ranges. They are lovely and interesting, many are just steps from the beach (ours is precisely 99 steps, apparently) and, best of all, many are very, very reasonably priced.



Our little cottage on Tybee Beach

We've stayed in fabulous, sprawling, luxury hotels in Hawaii — hotels that were mere steps from an incredible beach and offered amenities that would boggle your mind. Then we've stayed in places like this quaint little cottage. We enjoyed both vacations equally. There is a beach vacation out there for everyone. *And everyone needs a beach vacation.* The sun, the sand, the smell of the air, the taste of fresh seafood just pulled out of the water, kids building sandcastles — yes, everyone needs a beach vacation.

Now, just how do you get one?

Who? OK, first think about who is going. You might think that the bigger the family, the more expensive the vacation. But that isn't necessarily true. If you have a big family, maybe you can share the cost of a beach house. We recently stayed at the [Summerwind Resort](#) in Navarre Beach, Florida, thanks to [Gulf Blue Vacations](#), which offers tons of gorgeous condos and houses to rent in the area. The two of us (my husband and I) found ourselves in a large, three-bedroom condo that could have easily accommodated several more people. Split the cost of a gorgeous, beachfront condo or house, buy some groceries to make your own meals, and you have a pretty reasonable price for a beach vacation.



Summerwind Resort

What? If you have small kids in your group, they are honestly very happy playing on the beach for hours. There is no need to stress yourself out planning an elaborate vacation with tons of expensive things for them to do. Choose a place like [Tybee Island](#) or [Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, Alabama](#), where we recently stayed at the beautiful [Perdido Beach Resort](#). Right on the beach, with a beautiful pool and several restaurants, it's a perfect location with great prices. If you have a group of people going who want more activities, just choose a different area with more activities, like [Destin, Florida](#). We've stayed several times at the [Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort](#). A huge resort area, the Sandestin offers everything from lovely hotel rooms to huge beach houses, along with pools, a golf course, parks, restaurants, and shops. Just choose the accommodations and the price that fits your budget.

When? There are two aspects to this one. When, as in *can you leave on vacation at a moment's notice?* Hotels and resorts like to have full rooms. It means people are also spending money on food and amenities. So if they have empty rooms, you have some power to negotiate a better deal. Check the website, check sites like [hotels.com](#), then call the hotel or resort directly and



travelocity
You'll never roam alone.
Your booking will be right. Guaranteed.

The Gold Delta SkyMiles® Credit Card from American Express
Apply Now

save up to **60%** on hotels
priceline.com **go**

Google™ Custom Search

[Privacy Policy](#)

RECENT POSTS

- [Who, What, When, Where and Why: The Five Ws of a Bargain Beach Vacation](#)
- [The 10 Best Ways to Rent an Italian Villa](#)
- [Take The Water Taxi For Hop-On-Hop-Off Exploration of Fort Lauderdale. \(Plus a Priceline deal.\)](#)
- [Housesitting: Truly A Home-Away-From-Home](#)
- [This Weekend's Winners and MAKE MY MONDAY Deals & Specials](#)



Relaxing on Navarre Beach

see them what's the best they can do. You often get the best price by dealing directly with property. *When* can also refer to *when can you go*? Does it have to be when the kids are out of school? If you're a Baby Boomer, probably not. If you can travel in the low season, you're going to get the best prices. Many beach areas are perfectly lovely in May or September and you'll find some great deals.

Where? It's pretty obvious that you're not going to get a great deal during the high season when hotels and resorts make most of their money. You're also not going to get a great deal at the most popular beaches. The United States has pretty big coastlines on the east and west and down by the Gulf. Get out a map and check out some of the smaller, less populous beach areas.

Go to the library or the bookstore and read up on some of these small, undiscovered, but quite lovely locations. Once you find an area that looks interesting, check [tripadvisor](#) for reviews of the hotels, resorts, or rental properties you are considering. There are plenty of gorgeous beach areas that your family is going to love – and that you can afford.

Why? *Please.* Do we even need this?

Now I think I'll take a break from writing and go walk on the beach.

Something everyone should do.

What's your favorite little-known beach? Where have you found the best bargains on a beach vacation? Share the info with us know in the Comments section.



Tagged as: [Baby Boomers](#), [beach rentals](#), [beach vacations](#), [Florida vacations](#), [Hotels.com](#), [resorts](#), [vacations](#)

Leave a Comment

Name *

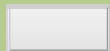
E-mail *

Website

* Copy this password:

* Type or paste password here:

2,482 Spam Comments Blocked so far by [Spam Free Wordpress](#)



{ 1 [trackback](#) }

Bargain Beach VacationWanderlustWonder