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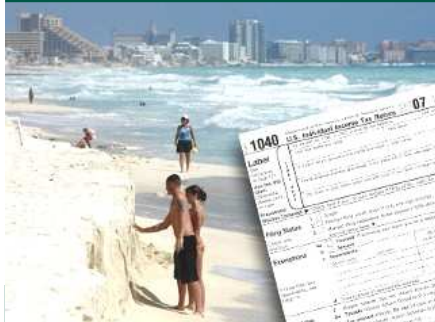


# HOMEOWNER'S NEWS

May 2008

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## Planning your Summer Vacation

With most Americans expecting to receive a tax rebate of up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples), there are plenty of ways to get the most vacation for your buck, say travel experts. Whether it's a cruise, a tropical paradise, or family travel, these trips can all be done for under \$600 a person.

### Top 10 Spring Destinations

*Pleasant weather, blossoming flowers and reasonable prices make Spring one of the best times to travel.*

- ABC Islands
- Amsterdam
- Arizona
- Budapest
- Cape Town
- Istanbul
- Malta
- Paris
- Tokyo
- Washington, D.C.

[Shermanstravel.com](http://Shermanstravel.com)

### Top Travel Booking Websites

**Expedia**

<http://www.expedia.com>

**Travelocity**

<https://www.travelocity.com>

**Priceline**

<http://www.priceline.com>

**Orbitz**

<http://www.orbitz.com>

**Kayak**

<http://www.kayak.com>

- **CRUISES:** Appealing to first-time cruisers and time-pressed travelers, several cruise companies are offering shorter cruises on older ships for as little as \$60 a night per person (based on double occupancy), says Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor-in-chief of CruiseCritic.com. For example, a Caribbean Princess three-night cruise from Fort Lauderdale to the Bahamas in May starts at \$259 (for a no-frills room).

- **TROPICAL GETAWAY:** Believe it or not, \$600 can get you a beach in the Caribbean or Mexico. Cancun is a popular destination for spring breakers searching for the 24-hour party, honeymooners on a romantic getaway, and anyone else craving sunshine and relaxation. The Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, and the Virgin Islands are also popular destinations that can be budget friendly.

- **ROAD TRIPS:** Skip the airport hassles and hit the road. Even with the high cost of gas, driving is cheaper than flying a family of four. It is also a great way to reconnect with your spouse or family. To save on lodging and meals, camp out in a tent or RV in one of the national or state parks. Yellowstone National Park has biking, horseback riding, boating, hiking and park education programs for kids. Most of the national parks also have Junior Ranger programs for children.

There are also a lot of beautiful parkways and scenic drives all over the country that you can combine with activities along the way, such as California's State Route 1 (Highway 1) along the Pacific or routes through the state's wine country in Sonoma and Napa Valley.

- **CITIES:** It's not impossible to travel to a sophisticated city for \$600. Get out of the casino, the high-end restaurants and upscale shops, and Vegas can be done for less than \$500, says Bryan Allison, vice president of marketing for Vegas.com.

Washington D.C. is a great destination for families looking for fun on a budget, since many museums are free. Visit the National Mall, the U.S. Capitol and the Supreme Court Building. Check out the Smithsonian and the Museum of Natural History. Stroll through Constitution Gardens. See the pandas at the National Zoo. And for a night on the town, head to Adams Morgan or Georgetown.

Finally, you can plan a trip to New Orleans that's not only in your budget, but that can help their economy. Stroll down Bourbon Street, eat beignets at Cafe Du Monde, listen to street musicians in Jackson Square, check out the new Louisiana African American Heritage Trail, or tour parts of the city that are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

- source: *The Associated Press* 2008

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*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, or know someone who is, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*

### Home Sale Price Medians by City for March 2008

Reporting resale single family residences and condos as well as new homes. % Change is from the same month last year.

County/City/Area	# Sold	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	% Change Yr-to-Yr
Santa Clara County	789	\$632,000	\$695,000	-9.06%
CAMPBELL	23	\$697,000	\$744,000	-6.32%
CUPERTINO	26	\$1,047,500	\$858,000	22.09%
GILROY	31	\$525,000	\$673,750	-22.08%
LOS ALTOS	16	\$1,837,500	\$1,660,000	10.69%
LOS GATOS	27	\$1,350,000	\$1,089,500	23.91%
MILPITAS	29	\$545,000	\$670,000	-18.66%
MORGAN HILL	19	\$620,000	\$800,000	-22.50%
MOUNTAIN VIEW	35	\$862,000	\$685,000	25.84%
PALO ALTO	12	\$1,030,000	\$1,341,000	-23.19%
SAN JOSE	405	\$572,000	\$663,000	-13.73%
SAN MARTIN	2	\$1,330,000	\$1,050,000	26.67%
SANTA CLARA	53	\$555,000	\$640,000	-13.28%
SARATOGA	23	\$1,430,000	\$1,500,000	-4.67%
SUNNYVALE	79	\$806,500	\$700,250	15.17%