

JUL
2025

The Springs Valley

SCOOP



Your Ultimate Guide to Saving for an Epic Vacation

Source: Money IQ

Imagine yourself standing in line to board your plane, your heart pounding with excitement as you prepare for an unforgettable vacation. The thrill of exploring new cultures, immersing yourself in stunning landscapes, and creating memories that will last a lifetime awaits. But how do you make this dream a reality without breaking the bank?



This comprehensive guide is your map to help you navigate the occasionally rough waters of vacation saving. We'll set sail together, defining your dream getaway, navigating budgeting basics, and uncovering unconventional tips to secure your financial footing. By charting the right course and avoiding common pitfalls, you'll be able to reach the shores of your travel paradise.

SETTING SAIL: DEFINE YOUR DREAM VACATION

Begin by visualizing your ideal trip. Where would you go? What experiences will you seek out? Is it a tranquil beach vacation, immersion in a different culture, or an adrenaline-pumping adventure that calls your name?

Defining your dream vacation provides a clear goal to fuel your motivation and guide your budgeting decisions. Consider the following prompts to help you narrow down your vision:

- What type of destination appeals to you? A stay in the city, time on the beach, a retreat to the mountains, or a combination?

- What activities would you like to experience? Visit museums and historical sites, take outdoor adventures, or seek out culinary delights?
- Who would you like to travel with? Family, friends, or solo?
- How long would you like to travel for? A week, a month, a six-month backpacking trip?

Each decision you make will have an impact on the amount of money you'll need to save, so be realistic, but also don't be afraid to stretch yourself a little.

CHARTING THE COURSE: VACATION BUDGETING BASICS

Creating a realistic budget is the foundation of successful saving for any goal. Start by estimating the cost of your dream getaway, including flights, accommodations, activities, and meals.

You'll probably need to do some research to make sure your estimates are realistic. You might be able to eat for \$10.00 a meal in your hometown, but a bistro in Paris

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will likely cost quite a bit more. Based on your estimates, set a savings goal and determine a timeline for achieving it.

Numerous budgeting tools and resources are available to help you track your vacation budget and stick to your savings goal. Consider using apps, spreadsheets, or online calculators to simplify the process.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SAVING

Saving money can often feel like an uphill climb, and while you might have included hiking or mountain climbing on your to-do list for a dream vacation, saving up to go on the trip shouldn't feel quite that arduous. There are several ways you can set yourself up for success when it comes to saving for your vacation:

Vacation Savings Account

Designate an account just for your vacation savings, and don't use it for any other expenses. By separating this money from the rest of your accounts you'll be able to watch your total grow, which can help encourage you to save even more.

Automatic Deposits

Have money automatically deposited into your Springs Valley savings account on a regular basis. Whether it's weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, even a small amount can grow over time. If it happens automatically, you won't have to remember to save, so the hard part is done for you.

Pay Yourself First

This savings tip is a bit of advice from the small business world. Put however much you've decided you can afford into your Springs Valley savings account before you pay your other expenses. This will ensure that the full amount gets saved, rather than just whatever is "leftover" after the rest of your bills have been paid.

Organize a "Staycation" Challenge

While you save up for that dream travel to far off places, challenge yourself to stay home and explore your own backyard. Your local community likely offers low-cost options to keep you and your family entertained while you're working on your savings goal. Put the money you would have otherwise spent on elaborate outings right into savings.

Navigating Unexpected Expenses

Unexpected expenses are a reality of travel. To avoid surprises, set aside a buffer fund of 10-20% of your initial budget for those unplanned contingencies. Proactive research can also help minimize these surprise expenses.

A TREASURE TROVE OF TIPS: UNCONVENTIONAL SAVING STRATEGIES

Beyond the typical budgeting advice, there are some other ways you can either save money on your trip or boost your vacation savings process. Try some (or all!) of these creative saving hacks to accelerate your vacation savings:

Travel During the Off-season

Traveling during peak tourist season almost guarantees high ticket prices. Many airlines offer calendars to compare ticket prices over the course of a week or even a month to help you spot the cheaper days to fly. Watch for flights during off-season or fly on weekdays rather than weekends or holidays. Just remember that there is a reason it is called "off-season" travel: while flights and accommodation may be cheaper, you may potentially encounter less favorable weather.

Embrace Alternative Accommodation

Consider hostels, homestays, or camping for budget-friendly accommodation options. Depending on your destination, house-sitting could also be a possibility. (Just remember that house-sitting usually comes with some minor responsibilities.)

There are also options in some areas for private travel rentals, allowing you to stay in a residential neighborhood. Some home rentals offer a themed vacation home, with the amenities of a homestay and extras like pools, spas, or even game rooms, making the place you stay a destination all on its own.

Cook Some Meals Yourself

Make a plan to dine-in at your destination. With a simple hotel kitchenette, you can still prepare simple meals to avoid pricey restaurant bills. Even eating just one meal a day in your room could add up to big savings over the course of your trip. Explore a local market and add to your unique vacation experience.

Utilize Travel Rewards Programs

Some credit cards are geared specifically towards travelers and offer rewards like airline miles. You might also be able to redeem the rewards from your current credit card for travel expenses. Keep an eye out for other opportunities like airline loyalty programs or travel apps that offer rewards that can help offset the costs of your trip.

Turn Hobbies into Income

Embrace the hustle. Sell crafts, offer tours, or freelance online to bring in extra cash for your vacation fund. If you like to drive, consider doing side-work for delivery apps or ride-sharing gigs. Side hustles are a great way to generate extra income.

AVOID THE ROUGH WATERS: COMMON BUDGETING PITFALLS

Sticking to a budget can be challenging, especially when you're on vacation and your emotions are running high with the thrill of all you can do and see. By watching out for these common pitfalls, you can avoid overspending and getting stuck with a big bill when you get home from your trip.

Impulse Purchases

Tourist traps are called that for a reason! Be cautious of grabbing up every cool souvenir you find. Shop around for a while to make sure you buy the perfect memento for your trip. If possible, give yourself 24 hours to think about it. Don't forget that anything you buy on vacation needs to fit in your suitcase to make it back home!

Unnecessary Expenses

While many of the activities you'll want to do on your vacation come with costs, shop around to find the best deal. While Super Deluxe options may come with complimentary champagne, you might have just as much fun with a mid-range option that allows you to add another stop to that daytrip.

Do some research on the area so you know what resources and options to expect from your destination. Always be smart about your choices. Look before you plan, to be sure that by cutting corners and amenities, you're not compromising your safety.

Underestimating Costs

Don't underestimate the true cost of your vacation.

Factor in hidden expenses like visas, insurance, transportation and travel fees, and souvenirs. You may also want to consider options like travelers' insurance, especially if going overseas.

REACHING THE SHORE: CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND BEYOND

Congratulations on achieving your savings goals! The sense of accomplishment is well-deserved.

Once you've secured your funds, move on to the exciting task of booking flights and accommodations in advance to secure the best deals. Keep records of any confirmation numbers along with your receipts. Computer glitches happen and sometimes plans change, so it's good practice to keep a file of information for your trip.

Bon Voyage!

Set sail on your dream vacation with confidence, knowing that you've planned, budgeted, and saved wisely. Once you've returned, plan to share your travel experiences with others to inspire them to pursue their own adventures. And remember, the best vacations are those that are planned with careful consideration and executed with a spirit of adventure.

The memories you create will be priceless, and the journey to get there will be a testament to your determination and financial savvy.



Congratulations!

ADVENTURE AWAITS

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Brian Smith

“As I celebrate my 10-year anniversary with Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company, I can honestly say it has been a rewarding journey. I love my job and truly enjoy working with the amazing team every day. While there have been challenging moments, they have only strengthened my resolve and commitment. The experiences, relationships, and growth I've had over the years have been invaluable, and I'm excited for what the future holds.”

Brian

Congrats Brian!

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ADVENTURE AWAITS

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Denise Miller

“I am happy to celebrate 45 years with Spring Valley Bank & Trust Company. When I started in 1980 straight from high school my boss believed in me and gave me a chance to prove myself. I started at the French Lick location when it opened. I have seen many changes throughout the years with a lot of growth and have met a lot of people in my career here. I enjoy gardening with my husband, Tom, canning, and spending time with my children and 12 grandchildren.”

Denise

Congrats Denise!

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ADVENTURE AWAITS

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Melody Ginder

“Celebrating 10 years at Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company has been an incredibly rewarding journey! What I enjoy most about working here is the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in our community. I'm excited to continue serving our customers and contributing to the growth of the community for years to come!”

Melody

Congrats Melody!

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CORE VALUES:

**INITIATIVE.
COMPETENCE.
OWNERSHIP.
RESPECT.
INTEGRITY.
TEAMWORK.
RESPONSIVENESS.**



SPRINGS VALLEY'S MONTHLY CYBER SECURITY TIP

Here's a tip to help keep you secure online this month

WHILE YOU TRAVEL: STAY SMART ON THE GO

Avoid public wi-fi risks. Public wi-fi is convenient, but its security might be questionable. Avoid accessing sensitive accounts like banking or email. Use a **VPN (virtual private network)** or your phone's hotspot for a more secure connection. SOURCE: NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Springs Valley will never call you to ask for your Online or Mobile Banking login credentials. If you receive a suspicious call requesting banking or personal information, do not provide any details. Instead, contact us immediately at 800.843.4947.



Scan this QR code to Open an Account Online Today!¹
Or, open your account online at svbt.bank!

ADVENTURE AWAITS

LET SPRINGS VALLEY GUIDE THE WAY

Open any Springs Valley **eZChecking**² account by Saturday,

September 27, 2025,

and be entered into a drawing for a pair of **LEKI Cross Trail 3 Carbon Trekking Poles!**¹

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TRAIL 3
CARBON
TREKKING
POLES -
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¹No purchase necessary to win (need not be present to win). Entrants of drawings must be 18 years of age or older. Limit one entry per person per drawing. Entries accepted starting Monday, June 30, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (EST) and will end on Saturday, September 27, 2025 ("Giveaway Period"), at 1:00 p.m. (EST). The Sponsor's clock will be the official timekeeper for the Giveaway. Drawing will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. One (1) set of LEKI Cross Trail 3 Carbon Trekking Poles will be awarded at each Banking Center. The verifiable retail value of the prize is \$139.73. No substitution or transfer of prize permitted. Official Terms & Conditions available upon request or by visiting svbt.bank/checking. Ask us for details. Bank rules and regulations may apply. To request a mail-in entry form, eMail marketing@svbt.bank or call 800.843.4947. LEKI is not a sponsor of, nor affiliated with this Giveaway. ²Minimum opening deposit of \$50.00 required. Some fees and conditions may apply. ³Third party fees for internet, messaging, or data plans may apply.