

SUMMER 2019 Newsletter

News and Events for ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union Members

5 Ways to Travel on a Budget This Summer

Isn't it funny how you look forward to summer all year long, yet somehow it still seems to show up earlier than you expected? Between work obligations, family responsibilities, and the valiant attempt to maintain some semblance of a social life, most of our schedules are so full that time flies whether we're having fun or not. So, here we are—standing at the summertime starting line. Even if you don't have a vacation fund, wouldn't you like to get away for a little rest and relaxation? And wouldn't it be nice to do it without blowing up your budget or going into debt?

1. Score some last-minute deals.

Remember when your parents and teachers would warn you about the dangers of procrastination? They may have been right about schoolwork and household chores, but it turns out waiting until the last minute can be a good thing when it comes to travel planning. To help travelers just like you, the good folks at SmarterTravel.com managed to identify 18 online resources that specialize in finding last-minute deals on hotels, flights, tours, cruises, and more! You spent years telling your mom that you do your best work under the pressure of a deadline—here's your chance to prove it.

2. Stay with friends or family.

Catching up with friends and family is fun, right? If they happen to live somewhere you want to visit and you can save a little money by staying with them, wouldn't that make your trip even better? Yeah, we thought so too. Financial benefit aside, staying with someone you know is also a fantastic way to get recommendations for the best local restaurants and attractions. With all the money you save on lodging expenses, you can probably afford to take your hosts out for a nice meal too.

3. Bring your own food.

Next to lodging, dining is often the most expensive part of traveling. You already know dining out can be expensive, but if you're heading to a popular vacation spot, it will be even pricier. Once you know your location, spend a little time meal planning. By shopping for groceries before you go and preparing most of your own meals during your stay, you can save hundreds of dollars and keep your trip under budget.

4. Plan a day trip.

OK, maybe you don't have room in your budget for a weekend getaway or spending a few days with friends. That doesn't mean you can't have any fun. Day trips are an excellent way to break out of your regular routine and save money. Do a little research and find a fun activity or two that you can enjoy within a two- or three-hour drive of your home. Head out early in the morning, spend the day creating spontaneous memories, and grab a good meal before heading back home. We bet that when you look back, these day trips will be some of your favorite travel memories.

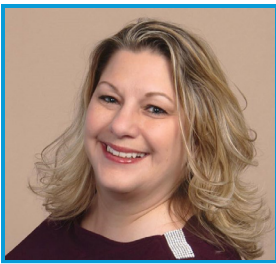
5. Collect experiences instead of "stuff."

Think back on your favorite childhood vacation. Why does it stand out from the others? Time with family? Seeing new places? Unexpected adventures? Whatever your answer may be, we're pretty sure it wasn't the \$10 gift shop keychain you begged your parents for. Trinkets are fun for a little bit, but the joy rarely sticks with you. Experiences, on the other hand, are not only enjoyable in the moment; they often get better with time. If you're going to plan a last-minute summer getaway (and you definitely should), focus on creating memorable experiences rather than spending too much money on souvenirs you'll probably lose anyway.

We started this article talking about procrastination and how you can make it work for you. But even though there's an adrenaline rush that comes from pulling off a last-minute travel miracle, it would be nice to enjoy a stress-free vacation next summer, wouldn't it?

As soon as you get back from this year's impromptu summer excursion, why not start putting a little money into a vacation-specific savings account each month? By keeping your vacation fund in a savings account until you need it, you not only reduce the temptation to spend it on something else, you gain the ability to earn interest throughout the year.

To make the most of your savings, speak with an ElecTel representative to help you find which account would be the best option for your vacation-saving goal.



Tracy Vance has joined ElecTel Cooperative as an Accounting Manager. She brings over 20 years of diverse accounting experience to the credit union, including over 5 years at another credit union. Prior to working at ElecTel, she managed and operated her own accounting business. She holds an MBA from High Point University™ and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Accounting. Outside of work, Tracy enjoys spending time with her son, travelling and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Delisha Williams has joined ElecTel Cooperative as a Member Service Representative. Delisha relocated to Raleigh, NC from Rocky Mount, NC four years ago with her family. She graduated from Rocky Mount Senior High school and attended NC A&T University® and NC Wesleyan College, majoring in English Literature. She enjoys spending time with her family, watching Lifetime Movie Network and watching her favorite team, the Cowboys, play NFL football.



We would like to welcome two newly elected board members to the ElecTel Cooperative Board of Directors:

Ravonda Hanes, Randolph EMC
James Contakos, NCEMC

Sheral Says...

That's Cold-Blooded!

Wash your clothes in cold water,
save almost \$5 a month.
Sounds good?



Get more tips from @sheralsays when you follow us on Twitter!



ElecTel's 2019 Scholarships have been awarded to Landon Hux and Leyla Sadiq!



Landon Hux is a 2019 graduate of Orange High School. He will attend Durham Technical Community College this fall to pursue a degree in Construction Management. In his spare time, Landon volunteers with Operation Inasmuch, a nonprofit that serves individuals that are in need within their communities.



Leyla Sadiq is a 2019 graduate of Franklin Academy. She plans to further her education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte® this fall to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine. She knew at the age of five that she wanted to be a veterinarian. She had the opportunity to attend camp at the North Carolina Zoo where she was able to shadow veterinarians and participate in animal research.

Congratulations to these very deserving students. ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union is very proud to recognize them for all their hard work!

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Holiday Closings

Independence Day
Thursday, July 4

Labor Day
Monday, September 2

Main Office
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ElecTel.org

The ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union Privacy Policy can be accessed online at any time through our website.

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender.