

## News to use

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By Phil Marty, Special to Tribune Newspapers

9:32 p.m. CDT, April 7, 2013

Here are some of the more interesting deals, websites and other travel tidbits that came across our desk recently:

Holy cow. That didn't take long. [ItalyVacations.com](#) has put together a Meet Pope Francis package for the faithful who want to see the new pope. Priced from \$879 per person double occupancy, it includes five nights' lodging in Rome, participation in a papal audience at St. Peter's Basilica, a Vatican museums tour, a day trip to Assisi to learn about St. Francis, and daily breakfast. Airfare is not included. 800-482-5925, [tinyurl.com/bss8dyu](#)

The Lodge at Pico Bonito, in Honduras' rain forest, is offering a very affordable Family Summer Series. The five-day/four-night package is priced at \$829 for two adults and two children 11 or younger, with a charge of \$90 per additional child. That includes lodging, breakfast, a guided hike, photography and bird-watching sessions for the kids and entrance to the Butterfly and Serpentarium Farm. If the kids don't participate in the activities, the \$90 charge doesn't apply. 888-428-0221, [tinyurl.com/cardg54](#)

[TripMasters.com](#) has six-night packages to New Zealand as low as \$1,917 that include round-trip air from Chicago or New York, two nights' lodging each in Auckland, Wellington and Queenstown and internal flights. It's possible to add nights, which would be advisable given the length of the flight to New Zealand and the diversity of things to see. 800-430-0484, [tinyurl.com/d95r3cz](#)

ARTA (American River Touring Association), a nonprofit whitewater-rafting organization, is celebrating its 50th birthday this year and offering a 50 percent discount on its trips to anyone born in 1963, the year it was born. You have to take another person with you to get the discount. 800-323-2782, [tinyurl.com/c3c8qus](#)

The 65th edition of The Milepost, considered by many to be the ultimate guide for planning a trip to Alaska, is available at [milepost.com](#) for \$29.95 and includes a digital edition too.

Windstar Cruises is offering new seven-day/six-night sailings in Tahiti starting at \$2,799 per person double occupancy. 800-258-7245, [tinyurl.com/d32z46p](#)

If Thanksgiving travel is on your radar, Gate1 Travel has a variety of packages ranging from travel to Vienna and Prague or Dubai and from Ecuador and the Amazon to Tokyo. [tinyurl.com/apzoyvq](#)

All Nippon Airways has set up an interactive website, 360 Japan, to help people who might be planning a visit to Japan to learn about its culture in a restaurant, business or casual setting. [ana360japan.com](#)

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame will induct three new members April 20 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [tinyurl.com/c4sw3v9](#)

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## VIDEO

'AGT' Judges React to Margaret ...  
AP Apr 8, 2013



'AGT' Judges React to Margaret T...



Michael Phillips on Roger Ebert: 'I...



Roger Ebert's wife Chaz: 'I think he...



RAW: Roger Ebert's casket leaving...

## PHOTO GALLERIES



Notable deaths this year



Cubs home opener



Chicago photos in the news



Mugs in the news

Prices include taxes and fee unless otherwise noted. Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time, but the listings are not an endorsement.

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