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ItalyVacations.com Has A Pope Francis Package For Travel To Rome

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By PHIL MARTY, Special to Tribune Newspapers | The Hartford Courant
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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, 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, located in [Honduras'](#) rainforest, is offering a very affordable Family Summer Series. The five-day/four-night package is priced at \$829 for two adults and one child under 12, 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

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>>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 on additional 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 non-profit 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

>>Traveling abroad and afraid you won't be able to order your favorite hot dog? The National Hot Dog & Sausage Council has you covered with its translation guide at tinyurl.com/c9mwpzy. Perrito caliente, amigo?

>>If you're wondering what's free and what's going to cost you extra on your cruise, CruiseCritic.com has a helpful chart at tinyurl.com/bpr82b3.

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>>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](#)

>>See a listing of special events in national wildlife refuges during May at [tinyurl.com/c7kn2e9](#).

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

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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Vacation Starter, 633 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

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