

EAGLE NEWS

Travel & Leisure

Travel Q & A

Q: Do you have any experience with volunteer vacations in support of wildlife? I am particularly interested in those focusing on marine conservation (and preferably not geared to high school/college students). A Google search turns up many options, but I'd be reluctant to commit to a specific group without more information.

A: I have taken a few volunteer vacations: one with the Sierra Club in Utah, another at a wildlife conservation center in Namibia. Sierra Club has many aquatic-based volunteer trips, including a January trip in Maui. Earthwatch is very reputable (but it can be expensive), and REI organizes trips, too.

If you support or follow a particular organization, such as World Wildlife Fund, see whether they offer volunteer trips. You can also contact the organization and ask whether they have travel partners. Galapagos Island conservation groups, for example, work with or certify some travel operators. If you find a trip you like, call and ask lots of questions, such as how many hours are dedicated to volunteering, the age range of participants and how the group uses your fees.

— Andrea Sachs

don't have car insurance. So I'm wondering: Is the secondary insurance on my credit cards enough when I rent a car? Do I need to purchase the additional coverage from the rental company (which I'd rather not do)? I'm not really clear whether that secondary coverage becomes primary if there is no other insurance. I have an AmEx for which I can pay an additional \$20 per rental for primary coverage, which is great for longer rentals, but not really worth it for a one-day rental that costs that much on its own. I can't seem to find a straight answer online on this, as most responses are under the assumption that one owns a car.

A: Secondary coverage kicks in only when your primary insurance is exhausted. The AmEx coverage is going to be considerably less than the insurance from the car rental company.

— Christopher Elliott

Q: We are two friends who are in our 60s and active. We are looking for a 10-day getaway in January where we can have nice, warm weather and something to do during the day. We are concerned about safety in Mexico. What can you suggest besides cruises, which neither of us are really interested in?

A: So many destinations would fit

trying?

A: Yes, it's worth trying. No guarantees, but you have nothing to lose. Many don't realize that discount carriers, such as Frontier, Spirit and WOW air, don't participate in TSA Precheck.

— Carol Sottili

Q: We flew from Miami to Newark but due to weather, the plane landed in Philadelphia. The airline informed us that our trip was concluded and we could get our bags at baggage claim. We ended up renting a car for the rest of the journey. Does the airline owe us anything because they ended up 100 miles short of our paid destination?

A: Yes and no. If you accepted transportation to Philadelphia, then technically the carrier has met its contractual obligations. The time to have negotiated transportation to Newark would have been at the ticket counter. Now that your vacation is over, you can contact the airline, but you probably won't get much more than a form apology and maybe a flight voucher.

— Christopher Elliott

Q: My sister and I (two women in our 60s) will be spending a weekend in Las Vegas in December. I've

booked the Cirque du Soleil show for

What's the Deal?

This week's best travel bargains around the globe.

• **The Marker Waterfront**

Resort Key West, a new high-end hotel in the Key West Historic Seaport and Marina, is offering 20 percent savings on two deals. Both specials start at \$219 a night, plus about 13 percent tax and \$25 daily resort fee; normal rate is from \$269. With the Last Minute Bookings deal, reserve a room within a two-week window; for the Mark the Occasion deal, book at least 30 days in advance. Price includes welcome drink, WiFi, access to three pools, workout room and business center. Info: 844-229-8312, www.themarkerkeywest.com.

• **Save 25 percent on a family golf package at the Italian medieval village-turned-resort of Toscana Resort Castelfalfi.** The deal starts at \$1,174 for a family of three (child must be 11 or younger) and includes three nights in a triple room at La Tabaccaia, Castelfalfi's boutique hotel; three days of golf, including unlimited rounds for adults and three one-hour junior lessons; daily breakfast; and most

ing; Picasso, New York New York's Big Apple Coaster and Arcade and the Venetian's Gondola rides. You

travel in October or November for the lowest price. The resort is a 40-minute drive from Pisa. Info: www.castelfalfi.co.uk.

• **Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik Hotel on Croatia's Babin Kuk peninsula is offering a five-night package at about \$743 per couple for stays Sept. 1-Oct. 31.** The Discover Dubrovnik deal includes lodging with breakfasts; airport transfers; access to the Ragusa Spa; guided walking tour of Old Town Dubrovnik; one-day Dubrovnik Card, which covers a 24-hour bus pass and entrance fees to museums and galleries; and taxes. Priced separately, the package costs about \$1,070. Book by Sept. 15 at www.valamar.com/en/discover-dubrovnik-lacroma.

• **Book an interior stateroom on select 2016 and 2017 Azamara Club Cruises and receive a two-category upgrade to a Club Veranda cabin.** For example, the seven-night Pearl of the Adriatic cruise departing Venice on July 3, 2016, now starts at \$3,019 per person double for a veranda stateroom — a savings of \$1,130. Add \$122 port charges. **Book by Aug. 31** and request promo code FREEUP. Info: 877-999-9553, www.azamaraclubcruises.com.

• **Venetian's Bellini is offering free**