

# Falling for big discounts, in season

There's a Silver lining for travelers over 55, but it's not always visible until early fall. When the kids are back in school and vacationers back on the job, hungry hospitality and tour operators appeal to retirees to pack up their pills, canes and yearnings and come fill the emptying rooms.

With gas prices soaring and B&Bs and motels dependent on motorists with flexibility, this autumn should be a good season for senior bargain-hunters.

Here are five senior deals. Look for more in the next few weeks.

## LOBSTERS AND LIVING HISTORY.

Three historic inns at Rockland on Maine's midcoast are offering a September Seniors Package that includes three nights midweek lodging at a 25 percent discount, sitdown breakfasts for two and afternoon refreshments, a guided walking tour of the restored village, with architecture from Federal to Sears Craftsman Kit, and a choice of tickets to two attractions, including museums and a ferry trip to Penobscot Bay islands.

Seniors can choose the Berry Manor Inn, Captain



Lindsey House or the LimeRock Inn. The 25 percent discount is given only with the three-day package. Price is \$385 to \$635 plus tax, depending upon room and inn chosen, available Aug. 29 to Sept. 30. Call 1-877-ROC-INNS; [www.HistoricInnsOfRockland.com](http://www.HistoricInnsOfRockland.com).

**• RIDING THE RAILS 2-FOR-'IN CANADA.** VIA Rail, the trans-Canadian railroad, invites seniors from age 60 traveling in comfort class (economy) to bring along a companion of any age for free. Overnight travelers in sleeper class can get a 10 percent discount for themselves and 75 percent off for a companion with the purchase of a senior-fare sleeping compartment.

New this year, "the Easterly Class: A Maritime Learning Experience" provides an on-board learning coordinator on the Montreal-Moncton-Halifax train, the Ocean. Passengers

learn about the region's history, culture and cuisine while rolling along in a 360-degree dome car. Typical cost for a senior and companion is \$446 Canadian, which translates to \$365 American dollars, plus tax.

VIA Rail's flagship, The Canadian, plies the Rockies between Toronto, Jasper and Vancouver. Meals are included in the ticket price for passengers in Silver & Blue Class. Overnight cost from Vancouver to Jasper would be \$935 Canadian, or \$768 American, plus tax, through Oct 31. 888-VIA-RAIL; [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca).

**• AFFORDABLE FJORDS IN NORWAY.** You don't get to be a senior in Norway until you're 67, but then it pays. Senior passengers on Norwegian Coastal Voyages who cruise the fjord-filled coast get discounts of \$95 to \$170 per person, which can be combined with \$70- to \$150-per-cabin discounts offered AARP members, who only have to be 50. In addition, the line will waive or reduce the single supplement for solo seniors from Sept. 18 to Dec. 31. (Granted, there's less daylight during those months, but there are

also northern lights and onboard entertainment.) Cost per senior couple, both over 67, for a six-day southbound voyage from Kirkenes, above the Arctic Circle, to Bergen, Norway, would be \$1,116 after Oct. 1; \$1,376 for seven days northbound, and \$2,060 for a 12-day round-trip. A single senior pays \$799 for a six-day cruise. 800-323-7436; [www.norwegiancoastalvoyage.us](http://www.norwegiancoastalvoyage.us).

**• ALL THAT JAZZ - PLUS GOLDIE HAWN.** Though not for seniors who crave peace and solitude, national conventions and expos offer a lot of entertainment, built-in fun, a chance to bond with like-minded strangers - and discounted hotel rates. This year, the AARP Life@50+ expo in New Orleans Sept. 29-Oct. 1 has all that plus actress Goldie Hawn, 60, writer Maya Angelou, 77, football star Archie Manning, 56, and other celebrity speakers; seminars on travel, caregiving and health, and jazz and Big Band concerts. Entry fee is \$15 for members; \$27.50 for nonmembers; hotel rates start at about \$119 a night double for the three-night stay. To register:

800-883-2784; Seniors with ty and funds ca vacation with a Caribbean cruise. Cruise Lines' quest, out of N 2-9. Prices star person with an For more infor 291-1762.

**• IRELAND IN D** Believe it. Sep driest month in also the month tumble. Aer Li airline, launch sale this week, fares to Ireland 5-30; \$189 Oc fares are only Web site [www](http://www) and must be b Don't forget just in case.

**RHODA AMON** accepts letters for senior travel tips. Write her at News, 235 Pinelawn, NY 11747-4000, or e-mail her at [rhoda@news.com](mailto:rhoda@news.com).