

## AAA: 82 Percent of North Dakotans Plan to Travel in 2018

With the holidays in the rear-view, North Dakotans are beginning to make travel plans for 2018.

A new AAA Consumer Pulse™ [survey](#) shows that 82 percent of respondents plan to take at least one vacation of three days or more requiring overnight accommodations this year.

“Strong economic growth led to a record number of holiday travelers last year, and we expect that momentum to carry into 2018,” said Vicky Evans, Assistant Vice President, Travel Sales Development, AAA – The Auto

Club Group. “Some of the harsh winter weather we have experienced could be the catalyst that drives more travelers to seek warm weather destinations in the coming months.



“Looking ahead at trends this year, travel to Europe looks strong, thanks to a favorable exchange rate for Americans. Also, domestic travel continues to grow. Destinations like Florida and California are always popular. Meanwhile, Hawaii and Alaska are experiencing more advanced bookings than what we normally see this time of year.”

Winter travel is popular for those wanting a reprieve from the snow and cold but summer is the most popular time to travel for North Dakotans due, in part, to kids being out of school. More than half (53%) of travelers are planning a vacation between July and September. Springtime is the second most popular time to travel with 46 percent planning a getaway between April and June. Forty-two percent are planning a vacation before the end of March.

While many will take advantage of activities across the Roughrider State during their travels, the most popular destinations included in plans are:

- City/metro destinations: 45 percent
- National/state parks: 28 percent
- Beach destination: 26%
- Resorts: 16%

### Vacation Tips

- **Book early** – Booking early gives you both the luxury of selecting the best cruise cabin or preferred seat on your flight, at a more competitive rate. As hotels, cruises, and flights fill-up, prices usually rise due to lower availability.
- **Use a travel agent** – Not only can they advise you on where to go and what to do when you get there, but also hook you up with exclusive upgrades, find competitive pricing, and tell you what you need to know about your destination.
- **Consider travel insurance** – When the unexpected happens, travel insurance can be your best friend. Hurricanes, flight cancellations, even illness while overseas could cost you hundreds or thousands of dollars. While travel insurance can vary in both coverage and price, you can find policies that reimburse you for health emergencies and/or out-of-pocket expenses due to a delayed/cancelled flight.
- **Know your destination** – Are you traveling abroad? Can you bring your pet? Refer to the

U.S. Department of State to find information regarding visa requirements, what you can bring, and detailed travel alerts and warnings.

**About the AAA Consumer Pulse™ Survey**

The AAA Consumer Pulse™ Survey was conducted online among residents living in North Dakota from October 10, 2017 – October 30, 2017. A total of 403 residents completed the survey. Results have a maximum margin of error of  $\pm 5.4$  percentage points. Responses are weighted by gender and age to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the adult population (18+) in North Dakota.