

## Autumn Vacations Popular with North Dakotans

The summer travel season is now over, yet many North Dakotans are not ready to put their luggage away. A new AAA Consumer Pulse™ survey reveals more than half (56%) of North Dakota residents are planning at least one trip sometime from September through November.

### When are they traveling?

(Travelers could select more than one)

- October 31%
- September 27%
- November 18%

### Top 4 Reasons North Dakotans Prefer Autumn Travel

(Travelers could select more than one)

- The weather is cooler (47%)
- Prices are normally lower than peak summer season (47%)
- Smaller crowds at popular attractions (46%)
- See fall foliage/colors (35%)

“Whether you travel domestic or internationally, there are many advantages to a fall vacation,” said Gene LaDoucer, North Dakota spokesman for AAA – The Auto Club Group. “The weather cools off and students are back in school, leaving smaller crowds at popular attractions. As a result, travelers can find more availability and competitive pricing on airfares, hotels and rental cars. This is why Americans love to travel this time of year.”

### Type of Destination

- Domestic (37%)
- Beach destination (13%)
- International (9%)
- Theme park (8%)

### Gas Prices

The 53 percent of autumn travelers planning to take a road trip should find lower gas prices. AAA forecasts the average gas price will drop to \$2.70 per gallon. That is 14 cents lower than today’s average price at the pump.

### Vacation Protection

The early weeks of September are often the most active time of hurricane season. Major storms can cause a ripple effect of travel delays and cancellations affecting American travelers nationwide. Nearly one-fifth (16%) of North Dakota travelers now say they are likely to purchase travel insurance for their fall trip due to the threat of hurricanes this year.

“You shouldn’t wait until a major storm develops to start researching travel insurance,” said LaDoucer. “Once a storm is named, it’s too late to purchase a new policy. The best advice is to talk with a travel agent, research weather patterns in your travel destination during the time of your visit, and consider purchasing a policy when booking your trip.”

Hurricanes aside, Americans should still consider travel insurance for their next vacation. A delayed or cancelled flight can cause missed reservations or excursions -- many of which are often non-refundable. Those and other out-of-pocket expenses can be offset by travel insurance. In addition, there are policies that allow you to cancel your trip before your departure date for a variety of reasons, such as falling ill. If you get sick or injured during your trip, there are policies that would cover medical expenses.

Learn more about [Travel Insurance](#).