

One Tank Wonders
Twenty Trips, Ten Cities, One Tank of Gas
By Emma Fox

As gas prices soar this summer, everyone is feeling pain at the pump. Instead of forgoing the family summer vacation or sacrificing your much-needed time-out, savvy travelers are compromising by spending their vacations closer to home.

This summer, the premium on fuel may be sky-high, but the significance of refueling your spirit is invaluable.

Local one-tank wonders, round-trip adventures from major cities that can be reached on a tank of gas or less, cut down on fuel costs, eliminate outrageous airfares, yet still afford cost-conscious trekkers the opportunity to get far enough away from home to relax and recharge. Whether you've saved enough pennies for a day-trip, an overnight excursion or an extended getaway, here are several one-tank summer escapes from 10 U.S. cities that will help stretch your vacation dollars.

Sonoma County

Just one hour north of the Golden Gate Bridge, budget-minded travelers can find lots to do this summer in Sonoma County. Farm Trails is a series of more than 100 farms and wineries that are open to the public. Visitors can see how organic honey, vegetables, artisan cheeses, flowers, lavender and more are grown. At the end of June, the Hot Air Balloon Classic takes place in Windsor, offering the chance to see awesome balloons from all over the United States floating over western Sonoma County's vineyards, orchards and redwood-covered mountains. The biggest food-and-wine event around, Sonoma Wine Country Weekend, takes place over Labor Day weekend. Affordable accommodations include Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, a historic Santa Rosa landmark. The property also has a huge swimming pool, perfect for escaping the valley heat.