

## Two Dollars for One Euro? It Could Happen

The U.S. dollar is in the dumps. At press time, €1 was worth \$1.47, and £1 was worth \$2.05. Even the Canadian dollar is worth more than the U.S. dollar. Many experts say the situation could get worse.

While I don't have any easy answers—sorry—I do have a few strategies to get more for your money.

First, consider countries where the dollar still goes relatively far. Three *BT* editors are headed to

Argentina this winter, and Mexico remains a terrific value. This is also an ideal time to rediscover the U.S. I just had a great weekend in Boston; the Institute of Contemporary Art is dazzling, especially the weird Mediatheque room.

Second, look beyond hotels. Renting an apartment or house—or “villa,” if you'd prefer—can be much more affordable than staying at a hotel, particularly if you're in a large group (check out [homeaway.com](http://homeaway.com)). While searching [palapainyelapa.com](http://palapainyelapa.com) for a house rental on Mexico's Pacific Coast, I found places that sleep eight for as little as \$100 a night. The best lodging value of all, of course, is house-swapping; the three major websites are [homeexchange.com](http://homeexchange.com), [homelink.org](http://homelink.org), and [intervac.com](http://intervac.com).

Third, travel beyond the tourist grid. Getting there costs more in transportation, but you'll spend far less once you've arrived. This is true for anywhere, and especially within Europe, where the countryside is far more affordable than the cities.

Ultimately, to avoid traveler's remorse—when your credit card bill makes you wish you'd stayed home—you'll need to pay close attention to where and how you spend every dime, even if that's exactly what most of us don't want to do when we're on vacation.



Erik Torkells

### LETTER OF THE MONTH

#### SACRED AFRICA

We've just returned from a trip to Africa. Here's a tip: If your country is on the carrier's list, the carrier will give you a discount—at least a standard tourist flight within the continent. For the discount, provide the carrier's phone number for flight. *Lyn Sheperd*

### WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

#### A DRINKING SAILOR'S PROBLEM

Your article on 10-foot Cruisers brought back memories. I sailed the *Clipper* in 1993, Grenadines time that Windjammer way out of its fin. *Jerry Weinberg*

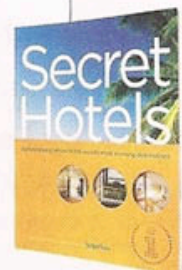
Thanks for the 10-foot Cruisers article. I'd long thought of those cruises about the frat party. Now I think I'll look for a boat. I'll appreciate *Budget Travel*. *Daria Labinsky*

### 20 TIPS (NOV.)

Moisturizing nasal spray is wonderful for the pharmacist, I have a decongestant rather than moisturizing saline sprays, like *Jan Rowe, Mars*

### MY HOMETOWN

We go to Aruba and can't resist the Boardwalk, one- and two-bedroom in a lush setting pool, a courtyard friendly cats (Or *arubaboardwalk*). *Caris and Richa*



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