

## Get Paid for Your Vacation

If the economy is keeping you from having a vacation this summer, consider these money-saving opportunities from Albert Ellentuck CPA, an attorney based in Washington, DC, Who is past chairman of the tax division of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts....

**Mix business with pleasure.** When you plan your summer vacation, combining business with pleasure travel may yield tax savings. If the primary purpose of the domestic trip is for business, you can deduct some travel, lodging, dining and other costs even if part of the trip is spent sightseeing or relaxing.

**Example:** You go on a weeklong business trip to Chicago. If you extend your trip through the following weekend to see friends and play golf, you probably still can deduct your airfare and your hotel bill for the business days.

**Required:** Keep a paper trail. That might consist of e-mail and regular mail correspondence between you and the business associates you see on your trip. If you attend a conference, keep the agenda as well as your notes from the sessions.

Also keep a diary to log any business entertaining that you do. Keep receipts, with notes about the reasons for all of those expenses, in case you're ever questioned by the IRS.

**Rent out your house** while you're away. You can rent out a home for up to 14 days per year without having to declare any taxable income. If you live in a popular tourist area or near the site of a major sports event you might pocket thousands of dollars, tax-free.

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