

CONTACT: Amy Morris  
212.242.0775  
amorrisshapiro@hotmail.com

## concierge.com

### GAS-SAVING ALTERNATIVES FOR SUMMER TRAVEL FROM CONCIERGE.COM

#### **26% of People Claim that Soaring Gas Prices are Stalling Holiday Plans**

New York (May 31, 2006) -- Gas prices have risen more than 35 percent from May 2005 to May 2006. According to early estimates from the Travel Industry Association of America, 26 percent of people claim that soaring gas prices are stalling their holiday plans.

Before you let the ExxonMobils of the world keep you from hitting the road, *Concierge.com*, the premiere travel planning site and online home of *Condé Nast Traveler*, has a few gas-saving alternatives for you to consider ... a way to make your summer greener:

<http://www.concierge.com/ideas/globalstyle/tours/detail?id=1258>

#### **Hoof it Over a Glacier**

[www.alpineclubofcanada.ca](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca)

- Join **Alpine Club of Canada** for a week of hut-to-hut hiking in the **Canadian Rockies** backcountry. **Even beginners** (physically fit ones) can join in.
- The **huts** themselves are **basic A-frame** structures with woodstoves and bunk beds.
- **Meals are mostly dehydrated ingredients** and are prepared by the hikers as a team (and actually aren't half bad).

#### **Your Car Ain't Welcome**

- [www.mackinacisland.org](http://www.mackinacisland.org)
- **Michigan's Mackinac Island** is the summer colony that has been drawing city dwellers for centuries. Horse-drawn carriages, bicycles, and sailboats are the main sources of transportation.
- **Fire Island** in **New York**, **Bald Head Island** in **North Carolina**, and **Virginia's Tangier Island** all opt for leaving cars in the garage as well

#### **Go Where Few Have Gone Before**

- While Washington tussles over whether to open the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** to oil drilling, go ahead and experience it now.
- **Arctic Treks** and **Arctic Wild** specialize in week-long rugged adventures into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in which you'll hike, raft, and camp among wild caribou, musk ox, and snowy owls.
- A tiny **prop plane drops you off** in the **Brooks Mountain Range**, where you'll hike along trail-free carpets of **wildflowers**, raft class III **rapids**, and camp among wild **caribou**.

#### **Drink 'n' Bike**

- Drinking and driving don't mix, but **wine country bike tours** are brilliant.
- Among them is **Discover Adventures**, the Georgia-based operation that specializes in **two, four, and six-day tours** of the upcoming wine regions of North Carolina and Georgia
- In North Carolina, the **Brookstown Inn** servers as the base camp for daily excursions out onto the **rolling hills and vineyards of the Yadkin Valley**.

#### **Test Your Endurance**

- [www.usara.com](http://www.usara.com)
- **Adventure Racing**, which merges several sports (usually a combination of biking, paddling, and trekking), has been **soaring in popularity in the past few years**, jumping from **35 annual events** in 2000 to **just over 350 last year**.
- Races are held in **cities around the country and vary in intensity**, but beginners can take a stab at one of the Sprint races, which last a couple of hours and require teams of only two.
- Wisconsin's **Wild Adventure Summer Sprint Race** on **June 10**, entrants will **mountain bike, trek, and kayak through the St. Croix river valley** for up to six hours, breaking for the **occasional mystery challenge** like playing a game of catch blindfolded.  
[www.wildadventurerace.com](http://www.wildadventurerace.com)

### Canoe the Northeast

- [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org)
- On June 3 the ribbons will be cut on the **Northern Forest Canoe Trail**, 740 miles of historic rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. The trail has been **divided into 13 sections** allowing for various levels of endurance.
- Camp and paddle your way through **New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine**.
- The **trail's online maps will help you plan** a paddling and camping trip or locate the best places to stay from **basic cabins to fancy lodges**.
- **Learn the history** of the storied people who carved the trails before you.

### Ride to Work on a Horse

- [www.lazyel.com](http://www.lazyel.com)
- The **Lazy E-L Ranch**, 70 miles southwest of Billings, **Montana**, is a **cattle ranch**.
- This is a **working vacation** that may reorganize your priorities: your to-do list includes riding the fences, doctoring calves, and herding cattle.
- The ranch disputes the notion that **ranchers and conservationists** can't get along **goats are used instead of pesticide to eliminate weeds**.
- There are **rooms in the lodge**, but for the truly pre-industrial experience, ask for the **riverfront cabin**. There's no electricity or running water, only an outhouse, some cooking supplies, and a wood-burning stove to keep you company.

For the complete list of pollution solutions visit [www.concierge.com](http://www.concierge.com)

### Concierge.com

The new Concierge.com incorporates original, interactive features on every aspect of travel; highlights from *Condé Nast Traveler*, re-engineered for optimum online browsing; almost 200 original, in-depth, insider guides to top destinations around the world; a "destination finder" that lets readers narrow down the perfect place for any trip; almost 10,000 photographs of hotels, destinations, landmarks, and more; a suite of interactive tools to help readers make smart travel plans; a range of travel deals targeted to specific destinations; and a powerful search function to aid navigation.

### CondéNet

CondéNet is the leading creator and developer of upscale lifestyle brands online, providing enjoyable, useful services that build upon the heritage of the world's most prestigious magazines. The company publishes significant online properties in the categories of food (Epicurious.com), travel (Concierge.com), and fashion (STYLE.COM and MEN.STYLE.COM); these titles have won numerous accolades from bodies including the American Society of Magazine Editors, the James Beard Foundation, Media Industry Newsletter, and the Webby Awards. Condé Net is an Internet unit of Condé Nast.

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