

Travel Via Moon

It didn't matter if you were up in First Class, got lucky and upgraded to Business, or in the very back of the plane in Coach, during the past 20 years you probably flipped through that *SkyMall* magazine in the seat pocket in front of you. Looking at all the things you didn't need, you spent many minutes deciding, usually by the prices, that the magazine was waste and you slid it back in the pocket.

Now on most airlines, that seat pocket is cleaned after each flight by the "clean-u crew" before the next passengers come on, but when you discover another magazine, candy-wrappers, or used Kleenex in your pocket along with that *SkyMall*, you kinda get a clue that they had "hurry-up" orders to get ready for boarding your flight. Unless you're flying out of Boston and wearing gloves due to all the snow, just imagine all the **germs** you will be meeting. And you'll notice the *SkyMall* magazine is just about one or two inches higher than the seat pocket, so it's always sticking out to remind you to look in the pocket.

The pilot or flight attendant will also get you to reach in there and check for the exits and emergency data for your aircraft. You can usually just look around the plane and see where the exits are (don't forget to look behind you to the the closest exit), so maybe you won't have to go in that seat-pocket. Of course, if you haven't had a good cold yet this year, this could be your chance. The good news here is *SkyMall* is going out of business.

As we've mentioned NUMEROUS times in this column, if you were planning to go on vacation from May to September, you should have made all those reservations and schedules back in February, because the prices during the summer season will probably be double what it was in Feb. But there still are bargains available *if you look closely at those ads!*

Let's talk about Hawaii. In Jan-Feb-March you could get a room at hotels in Kauai for around \$600-700 a night, per person, which included your round-trip airfare, and even a rental car. Downtown Honolulu, add \$200-300 to that price BUT, watch that these prices are not for specific dates frequently starting on a Monday and good for 3 days. These "super" prices may only be available on specific dates such as 2 March or 16 Feb. so read the fine print at the bottom of the advertisement.

Cruising...same rules...check the fine print to find when those 50% discounts apply. If your vacation plans allow you to take one of those vacations, don't hesitate to contact those travel professionals right away because they disappear fast.

As we've mentioned in previous columns, contacting those hotels, airlines, or cruise ships and asking for specifics will get you frequent advertisements from them for the rest of your life. But the savings for one great vacation that you go on can be worth it...and the delete button on your computer, or the recycled paper you put in the trash each week make the price even better. Enjoy! You deserve it.

Submitted by AGCM Moon Mullen USN RET