traveling tips

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abor Day should be a
day off, but superinten-
dents know hackers will
try to get in their last
swipes before the clubs
get parked in the garage.
If you’re lucky, though, the holiday
means you are that much closer to
some well-deserved R&R. We atGolf-
dom aren’t trained travel agents, but we
do know a good getaway — and a great
price — when we see one. So as you
look forward to vacation, here are some
intriguing Web sites that may help you
find travel bliss.
If you are planning to stay at a hotel,
your best bet is to start clicking hyper-
links. While Priceline.com didn’t do so
well with groceries and mortgages, it is
still one of the best sites for booking
last-minute airline travel and excellent
for locating hotel rooms. The catch, of
course, is that you bid what you want
to pay — and if they match, you have
to buy. The site sends you an e-mail to
let you know whether your bid has
been accepted, usually in about an
hour. Bid low at first, and then gradu-
ally increase your bid until you get a
match. Hotel rooms that normally go
for between $125 and $150 per night
often can be snapped for around $50.
Two other sites offer solid informa-
tion and often good deals. First, Trave-
locity.com allows you to customize ar-
ival and departure times for airline
flights and then gives you a compara-
tive listing of fares. It also features a

USE THE WEB TO CHOOSE THE PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

THAT WILL CARRY YOU AWAY ON VACATION

BY MARK LUCE

wonderful Last Minute Deal section. In
addition, Travelocity.com offers a ser-
vice that will e-mail low fares to you, so
you don’t have to spend all afternoon
on the computer watching for them.
The other impressive travel site is
Planetrider.com, which gathers easily
navigable links from travel-related Web
sites, allowing you to hone in on what
type of vacation you want.
With gasoline prices back to more
normal, driving may be an option.
The America Byways program
(www.byways.org) will help you plan a
backroads tour filled with scenery, his-
toric locales and culture. If you are
looking for something off the beaten

path, proceed immediately to the site
and order your free map. I personally
like the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway on
the coast of Washington and Oregon,
and the New York Seaway Trail in up-
state New York. Renting a convertible
will enhance either of these drives.
Let’s not forget about train travel.
There is a splash of nostalgia connected
with the click-clack of the rails, but there
are also natural wonders you simply can’t
see any other way. The Montana Rockies
Rail Tour (montanarailtours.com) is re-
garded as one of the most breathtaking
rides in America, taking you from
Spokane, Wash., to Livingston, Mont.,
in vintage cars with large windows. You
only travel during the day, so you won’t
miss the scenery.
If luxury beckons, try one of the sev-
eral journeys of the American Oriental
Express (americanorientalexpress.com). It
isn’t cheap, but you’ll be treated like
royalty. Its October trip is an eight-day,
seven-night tour of the National Parks
of the American West.
So make those travel plans now. You
have earned a vacation again this year.

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deals in his home of Lawrence, Kan. He
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