

**By Jerry Morris**  
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They are the dream destinations — Hawaii, California and Alaska — but many travelers also consider these places costly, distant and not without problems.

A recent survey for the Hawaii Visitors Bureau said most people dream of visiting the islands, but distance keeps many away. There is no question that for those on the East Coast, Hawaii is indeed a long trip, but, believe me, it is worth the effort. Alaska, too, takes time, but is a vacation to savor for years.

As for the cost, there are many ways to save. Travel agents have many packages with good value. In Alaska, for example, there is much competition between cruise lines; that means opportunities for saving. One can also book an AlaskaPass that provides unlimited travel and savings on rail, bus, Alaska and British Columbia ferries and this year also on

Regency Cruises (call 1-800-248-7598). On Hawaii, travelers can take advantage of lower-priced accommodations such as condominiums or bed-and-breakfast inns. On the island of Kauai, many tourism activities cost just \$20 or less. American Airlines is offering its frequent-flier members extra miles from a visit to Maui, where playing golf, snorkeling, taking a helicopter ride or booking a room earns AAdvantage miles.

There are great reasons to go this year. Hawaii is filled with culture and heritage. On the tiny island of Lanai, home to merely 2,500 people — just about all of whom worked on what was once the world's biggest pineapple plantation — there is a free Visiting Artist Program. Garrison Keillor recently spoke to an audience of 140, huge by the island standards (there are only two world-class hotels on the island, the Lodge at Koele and the Manele Bay Hotel).