

## ***Let's Take a Trip...***

### **A quick glance at the tourist industry**

How many times have you heard someone say, “*I could sure use a vacation*”? In today’s hustle and bustle society, taking a vacation is often for more than recreation—it is almost a necessity. As a result, tourism is currently a *billion* dollar industry just in the United States alone.

The majority of working people will go on at least one vacation (*a trip that is completely dedicated to recreation or rest*) this coming year.

There are three reasons why these vacations have become so common. The first has to do with *money*. People are making more money, and the cost of living is decreasing—that creates disposable income. This left over money isn’t needed for the necessities, so it seems logical to spend it on a nice trip.

The second factor that prompts people to take vacations is *time*. In countries like the United States, the standard of living is at an all time high, so people aren’t working around the clock just to get by. This gives people more leisure time, which is often used for vacation. On top of that, many jobs offer paid vacation as part of a benefit package. In other words, people are *encouraged* to take time off of work and go on a trip.

There is another development that is crucial in the increasing number of vacations that are being taken. If people want to go somewhere, they have to have a way to get there. It is necessary to have a complete system of transportation so people can quickly travel from place to place. In the United States, Europe, and Asia, these massive infrastructures are already in place. Regardless of whether your traveling by plane, train, or automobile, you can pretty much just pick a place on the map and be there within a day or two.