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Maximize HOTEL VACATION VALUE

When it comes to hotel accommodations you are likely to receive only what

you pay for. It may be difficult to look at the room without the key. If one wants to inspect the room first, one should do it before completing the registration form.

If you are promised compensation—a refund or a discount—get it in writing with names, room numbers and even photographs if the room is dirty or did not have the features advertised.

Be wary of claims you read in tourist brochures. Phone the hotel itself if you are counting on the availability of recreational facilities. Don't wait until you arrive to find out the spa is being renovated and the fitness club is still under construction.

Know what the hotel/resort rating system is in the country you are visiting. "First Class" may not be the highest ranking.

Practical Wealth Creation Ideas

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State specific requirements when making reservations. Most reputable managers will try to please their guests.

Ask for the name of the person booking the room for you and don't call at a time when the front desk is likely to be busy (first thing in the morning or mid-afternoon).

Are there discounts for weekend accommodation, seasonal rates or special offers for members of travel organizations such as CAA?

Before you make a long distance call or send a fax, find out what the charge will be. Use a long-distance calling card from a phone in the lobby if necessary. In some countries, you may even be charged for receiving a fax.

Ask about mandatory surcharges for services such as valet parking and fitness facilities you may never use.

It pays to be forewarned. With some advance planning you can reduce the chance of paying top prices for inferior accommodations.