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## Traveling alone? Avoid the singles surcharge!

One of the benefits of retirement is the increased opportunity to travel. However, many single retirees interested in travel may have a unique problem; often, the cost to travel alone is greater than that if traveling with a companion. Single travelers often face a “single supplement” charge that might be high enough to cause one to reconsider one’s travel plans. Many cruises, group tours, and inclusive resort packages are based on pairs. The price in travel ads almost always is calculated per person, based on double occupancy. Go it alone and you can expect a surcharge that may almost double the advertised price.

Finding a travel companion can be daunting. This can be especially challenging for women. One can improve the chances of finding a compatible partner by following their own special interests, whether music, archeology, or hiking. Universities are also a rich source of theme trips and potential partners. There are other ways to confront the single supplement challenge. Consider programs such as Elderhostel ([www.elderhostel.com](http://www.elderhostel.com)) that promotes worldwide educational travel for those 55 and older. Grand Circle Travel ([www.gct.com](http://www.gct.com) and click on Single Traveler Information in the left pane), Vantage Deluxe World Travel ([www.vantagetravel.com](http://www.vantagetravel.com)) and others cater to those 50 years and older and will, on request, attempt to match singles with a same-sex partner to eliminate the supplement. There is also a clearinghouse for single travelers, Connecting: Solo Travel Network ([www.cstn.org](http://www.cstn.org)) that provides travel tips, articles, and a place to advertise for travel partners. Since the majority of retirement-age travelers looking for partners are women due to the demographics of the aging population, other sites to explore are: Journeywoman at [www.journeywoman.com](http://www.journeywoman.com), Transitions Abroad ([www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com) and view either Senior Travel or Women Travel in the left pane), Wired Seniors ([www.wiredseniors.com](http://www.wiredseniors.com) for travel and other activities of single seniors) and of course the AAP. Contact AAP Travel at 888-227-1772 and ask for Elizabeth in Leisure Travel. Be sure to ask about “single supplement guarantee” rates from selected cruise and/or tour companies.

Bon Voyage and Enjoy.

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