

## **Save Money on Your Tax Return Plan Your Vacation Around a Business Trip**

If you are like most people, you dream of a vacation that pampers, revitalizes, and entertains you, yet is affordable. By connecting a vacation with a business trip, you can more easily realize your dream. There are ways to make some of your expenses for trips deductible on your tax return.

Consider a four-day sales meeting in Las Vegas. If you stay for the entire week, the cost of your meals, lodging, and travel (taxi, bus, shuttle, etc.) for four of those days are deductible because you have a business purpose for being there, and only the expenses you incur for the days of vacation are not deductible. Here's the bonus, the cost of your round trip airfare is deductible in full since the trip was primarily for business purposes. The fact that you did not spend the entire time at your sales meeting doesn't matter. What does matter is that the trip was taken primarily for business. If your trip to Las Vegas for a week involves only a one-day seminar for business while you are there, the amount you can deduct is more limited. Because the majority of the week was not business related, you can only deduct the cost for your directly related business expenses -- meals, travel, and lodging for that one day are allowed as a deduction. Your airfare is not deductible.

Family members or others who accompany you on a business trip are not deductible unless there is a business reason for them to come along. They must be your employee or have some other significant business purpose for traveling with you to be eligible for any deduction.

It is always a good idea to discuss events that may affect your tax return with your tax professional before they occur. Not only are there fewer surprises at tax time, it's easier to track expenses when you know what can be deducted. The professionals at AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES can assist you with your business travel deduction questions. Please contact us for assistance with all your tax preparation needs.

**For more information regarding your personal income tax and how these credits and deductions may benefit you, give AJE Financial Services a call today!**