

# Prayer Retreats on the Cheap!

Most of us are not millionaires, nor do we have a super abundance of extra cash to go on expensive retreats as regularly as we need. There are ways to find a prayer retreat that is close to home and won't cost you an arm and a leg. Whether you need a get-away for 3 hours, one day, or three days there is probably a reasonably priced (even cheap) location near you.

Monasteries, and Convents - these are Catholic centers that were inspired places of prayer. Most have rooms and facilities that are ideal for private prayer retreats.

Church Camps - denomination camps abound all across America. Certainly somewhere near your home town is a church camp. Often they are happy to offer lodging (sometimes meals and lodging) in the off seasons for private prayer retreats.

Cottages, Cabins, and Condos - not every believer has the luxury or good fortune to have their own mountain cabin or seaside condo, but there are probably some people in your church or your circle of friends who do. Though I am reluctant to ask someone for the use of the private retreat I do often talk to people about the value of my retreats and that I am looking for local places to pray. I find that some people are eager to offer their cottage to you for that use. Be sure to offer to pay for electric, heat, etc.

An RV or Trailer - thousands of Americans have pop-up campers, camping trailers, and RVs they use in the summer months. Often these mobile retreats sit idle during the spring and fall of the year. Perhaps someone in your family or a close friend might be willing to lend you the use of their mobile prayer retreat.

Tent or Cottage - Last year I bought myself a tent and screen gazebo so I could easily take off on the spur of the moment and camp with my Creator. Electric, water and a bathroom is all I need for facilities, so often the isolated wilderness camps are ideal (and cheap) for a one of two day get-away with God. Consider also your local KOA Campground often has small cabins to rent.

## Avoid the Poison Ivy!

Here are a few things to avoid as you search for a private retreat.

- Avoid going with other people. It is not fellowship you seek.
- Avoid crowded areas and peak holiday times.
- Avoid motels. They are often more temptation than quiet.
- Avoid toys. You are not there to play. Leave your TV, computer, and radios at home.
- Avoid recreation. Stay away from recreation areas, where there is too much to do.

## Retreat Links

Retreat Finder - [www.retreatfinder.com](http://www.retreatfinder.com)

Retreats Online - [www.retreatsonline.com/usa/](http://www.retreatsonline.com/usa/)