

Traveling and dealing with gas prices

Now that summer is here and everyone is out and about, the gas prices go up. This can affect traveling nurses who often travel to each assignment via car. While the travel nursing companies pay a certain amount of money per mile, that amount doesn't go as far as it used to.

It used to be that the mileage money would pay for gas and if you were frugal it would also pay for your hotel or camping, but nowadays that may not be the case.

Also, as a side note, when talking about mileage, keep in mind that the government usually pays more per hour at tax time for you to travel to your assignments than you were paid by your travel company. Therefore, you can often deduct the difference in the amount you were paid versus the amount the government is willing to pay you. Make sure to keep this in mind at tax time.

Since many of you will be traveling a great distance through many states, you might like to know where gas prices are highest. According to AAA, California (\$3.35), Washington and Hawaii (\$3.14) are in the top three with the rest to follow respectively: Oregon, Nevada, NY, Connecticut, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, and Florida (\$2.90). These are average rates for the state. The three states with the lowest prices are reported to be Minnesota, NJ, and Missouri (\$2.68).

If you want a quick calculation of how much gas is going to cost you on your next trip, you can go to <http://www.fuelcostcalculator.com/> and put in your starting point and your destination and it will calculate a rough estimate for you. This will give you a good idea as to whether the travel company is offering an adequate amount for your trip and how much, if any, you might have left over to help cover expenses of hotels and meals.

Bibliography

“Pain at the Pump” The Daily Pulse, 4/23/07, <http://money/aol.com/news/dailypulse>