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# DRC

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The wild California coast may be attainable now that the energy crisis is letting up

## Travel outlook good

Now that the energy crisis seems to have lessened, the vacation travel outlook for the upcoming summer months is very good. Barring some unforeseen move on the international oil scene, recreation forecasters predict business-as-usual for the rest of this year.

Increased fuel supplies have already generated an upturn in state-wide and national travel that is expected to better previous record tourist totals in some areas.

"The Irish Hills area and Ann Arbor have a 20 percent increase in business over last year," Robert Cartwright, a spokesman for the Southeastern Michigan Travel and Tourist Association, said.

"February and March were below normal. Greenfield Village attendance was down about 18 percent at one point—it's now on par with last year," Cartwright said.

"Business has turned the corner and is on the way up," Sid Baker, president of Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority SEMTA, said.

"If we can continue to get the necessary gasoline and if it doesn't rain, we're very optimistic," he said.

Optimism seems to be the prevailing mood among everyone involved in tourism.

"The statewide outlook is very encouraging," Richard Allen, state travel director and head of the Michigan Tourist Council, said.

"The upper peninsula was hit hard during the height of the energy shortage because of its distance from Detroit. The economic picture is much improved," Allen added.

The energy shortage necessitated a shift of philosophy by the Michigan Tourist Council. The crunch prompted a campaign stressing "stay-close" tourism in the state. Other states had similar intrastate vacationing promotions.

In preceeding years, the council actively sought out-of-state vacationers. An increase of such pro-

motion is returning, Allen said.

Motorists should have no problems this summer filling their tanks.

"More and more service stations are staying open longer every week," Jerry Cheski of the AAA travel service said.

"Ninty-five per cent of the gas stations are open Monday through Saturday from dawn to dusk," he added.

The airlines coped with federal allocation fuel cutbacks by reducing the number of flights—thereby flying more people on fewer planes.

"Just as many people were flying, only it was a little more crowded," Robert Ranchford, a spokesman for Eastern Airlines, said.

"The commercial lines are beginning to add additional flights now that fuel is more plentiful," Ranchford added.

The international travel situation also looks good, Jay Beau Seigneur, a representative of Pan American airlines, said.

Increase fuel costs abroad are running extremely high for international airlines, but no change in passenger service is expected, Seigneur added.

Several travel agencies experienced a fluctuation in typical traveler habits during the squeeze.

"It slowed down overseas travel and increased domestic air travel," Walter Centomini, manger of Birmingham-Oakland Travel, said.

"People were hesitant; they were holding still to see what would happen," Dorothy Leszczynski of American Express Travel Service, Birmingham, said.

"But the situation has definitely changed," she said.

It appears the only crises this summer's traveller has to contend with are familiar ones—lost luggage, flat tires and no-vacancy signs.

JAY R. STUCK