

TRAVEL TIPS FOR TRAVEL ENJOYMENT



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WHY TRAVEL?

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." – St. Augustine

"The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are." – Samuel Johnson

"People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home." – Dagobert D. Runes

"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." – Henry Miller

PRE-PLANNING YOUR TRIP



- ◊ Decide where and how you want to travel.
- ◊ Do some research. Go to the Internet, library, or bookstore to determine places you want to see, types of transportation, and climate during the time you will be traveling.

PRE-PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- ◊ Check out the fares for transportation, hotel rates, and tours to get an idea of the money you will be spending.
- ◊ Go to the U. S. Department of State website to see if there are any travel warnings for your chosen destination.



NOW YOU'RE READY TO PLAN

- ◊ Think about the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of travel experiences.
 - ◊ Cruises allow you to see a variety of places without having to unpack at a different hotel each night or pay for all of your meals. However, the sights at each location are limited by the hours the ship will spend in port.
 - ◊ Traveling on your own will allow you to see more sights in each area, but you will pay for your own meals and have to unpack and pack at each place your stay. Transportation can be expensive.

NOW YOU'RE READY TO PLAN

- ◊ Make sure that your travel plans are within your budget.
- ◊ Check to see that hotels are in a safe place with restaurants, shopping, and entertainment within walking or subway distance.
- ◊ Decide what sights you want to see in any location that you visit.
- ◊ If on a cruise, find out about transportation from the dock if you don't want to take a guided tour.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- ❖ Decide if you want to use a travel agent or make your plans yourself. Be sure the travel agent is reputable and in touch to let you know about the details of your trip. A travel agent is knowledgeable about airfares, hotel locations and prices, places to see, and will handle all details for you.
- ❖ Making the arrangements on your own is suggested if you want to be more independent and see places not usually visited by tourists.

USING A TRAVEL AGENT

- ❖ Using a travel agent allows you to have one contact to make all travel arrangements.
- ❖ A travel agent is knowledgeable about hotel locations, hotel prices, airfares, and other important information that you will need (shots, visas).
- ❖ Travel agents can save you money by using consolidators, package deals, and group rates.
- ❖ There is no cost for using a travel agent. The exceptions may be a booking fee if you are booking airfare or rail tickets. The travel company pays commissions to the travel agents.

PLANNING ON YOUR OWN

- ❖ You will need a good travel guide such as Fodor's, Rick Steve's, or other to research your hotels, sights you want to see, and the best types of transportation.
- ❖ Prepare to make long-distance calls or use faxes to make hotel reservations. Email is not always reliable.
- ❖ You will be able to choose hotels and tours that might not be in a travel agent's database.

TIPS FOR FINDING CHEAP AIRFARES

- ❖ Use web sites such as Expedia, Travelocity, Booking Buddy, or others to compare prices on the different airlines. However, many of these sites charge a hefty fee that is added to the price of the ticket.
- ❖ Go to the airline's own website to make your reservation. Be aware that some routes require a change of airport (LaGuardia and JFK) which is time-consuming, costly, and inconvenient. Others include an overnight stay in an airport. If you book one of these, you will not be reimbursed for a hotel room.

MONEY

- ❖ It is always good to get some of the local currency before leaving on your trip. Banks and AAA can get this for you. The exchange rate might not be the best, but lines at the currency exchange booth at the foreign airport can be quite long and the exchange rate isn't great there, either. Order your currency several weeks in advance.
- ❖ Make sure you have at least two credit cards with you in the event that something goes wrong with one of them. Take your debit card to use in ATM machines and make sure you have enough money in your account to cover any fees and exchange rates.

MONEY

- ❖ Call the issuers of your credit and debit cards to let them know that you will be using them out of your local areas so they won't block your cards, thinking that they might have been stolen.
- ❖ If you don't want to use your regular cards, go to AAA and get a prepaid card which works in ATM machines worldwide. Make sure that you don't get a bank gift card that can be used only in the United States if you are going abroad.
- ❖ It is good to carry a currency calculator with you on your mobile phone, even if you can't get a phone signal. Currency calculator apps can be downloaded.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- ❖ Travel insurance protects a traveler for all types of travel emergencies and is highly recommended.
- ❖ Travel insurance should be purchased from an independent seller (Travel Guard), not from the company that is providing your travel. The independent seller also covers transfers, tours, hotels, baggage, and air.
- ❖ If travel insurance is purchased within fourteen days of booking a trip, all pre-existing conditions are covered.

PACKING TIPS

- ❖ Use small bottles to pack shampoo, toiletries, and lotions (3 oz. or less).
- ❖ Remember to bring extra plastic bags, (preferably Ziploc). Divide your items so that you can take out a series of bags and see immediately what you want.
- ❖ Pack only what you will use.
- ❖ Keep any medication in your carry-on bag.
- ❖ Remember that overhead bin room on a plane is at a premium. Take carry-on luggage that fits under the seat.

PACKING TIPS

- ❖ **VERY IMPORTANT:** Pack a fresh change of clothes (or even two changes) in your carry-on bag in the event that your suitcase is delayed or lost.
- ❖ Carry a small package of Kleenex with you at all times. You never know if restrooms supply toilet paper.
- ❖ Purchase a small travel scale that you can take to weigh your suitcases for your return journey. Your suitcase always weighs more when you are coming home than when you start your trip.
- ❖ Take only enough carry-on luggage that you feel comfortable with racing across an airport.

PACKING TIPS

- ❖ Take the smallest suitcase that you can get by with to eliminate the possibility of bulky items and overweight luggage.
- ❖ Make sure your name, address, and contact information is on both the inside and outside of all your luggage, both checked and carry-on.
- ❖ Take a mesh laundry bag for dirty clothes.
- ❖ Make sure your suitcase closes easily after it is completely packed. It is better if you leave room in it for items you purchase on your trip.

A GOOD PACKING RULE OF THUMB



Pack what you think you will need and then remove half of it from your suitcase.

ARRIVING AT YOUR DESTINATION

- ❖ If you are going through Customs, have your passport and any other information that the authorities may need in hand when you get up to the Customs window.
- ❖ Do not say anything to the Customs agent unless he or she asks you a direct question.
- ❖ Keep an eye on your carry-on luggage and make sure the suitcase that you pick up from the carousel is your own.
- ❖ Before you leave, study the best type of ground transportation that will meet your needs.

SAFETY TIPS DURING YOUR TRIP

- ❖ Know the procedures to follow in the event of lost or damaged luggage.
- ❖ Scan your passport, passport photo, and driver's license. Store in a web-based email account such as Gmail or your internet provider's webmail feature. You can also store emergency contacts, lost credit or debit card telephone numbers, and emergency information.
- ❖ Split up your valuables when packing. If you're traveling with a friend, split items between your suitcases in case of lost luggage.
- ❖ Carry your passport and money in a pouch underneath your clothing or in a holder attached to your belt.

SAFETY TIPS DURING YOUR TRIPS

- ❖ Each night in your hotel, put your valuables such as money, passport, jewelry, hotel key, etc. in a Ziploc bag. If there is a fire alarm during the night and you have to evacuate your room, you can take this bag with you.
- ❖ Make use of the safe in your room or cabin for valuables when you leave your room for the day. Or rent a safety deposit box in the hotel lobby for items such as return tickets.
- ❖ It is always good to have your passport with you for identification if it is needed. Don't leave it in the hotel safe.

SAFETY TIPS DURING YOUR TRIP

- ❖ The desk clerk at many foreign hotels will ask for your passport when you register. Make a copy of the information page of your passport to give to them instead of your regular passport if they will take it. If not, keep an eye on it at all times until it is returned to you.
- ❖ Many cruise lines will ask for your passport to handle the customs process in countries that you will visit on the cruise. Make sure you get a receipt from the cruise line when you hand over your passport.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

- ❖ It is very important to enjoy yourself on a trip.
- ❖ Try to look as if you know where you are going, even if you don't.
- ❖ In Europe, try to blend in with the natives. Dress as if you're one of them.



ALWAYS REMEMBER

- ❖ Leave your expensive jewelry at home and don't display large amounts of cash.
- ❖ Be aware of helpful strangers.
- ❖ Keep your sense of humor.



ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?

- ❖ Advantages of an organized tour
 - ❖ You will get more detailed information about the sights you see.
 - ❖ There's safety in numbers. Your guide may even know the pickpockets and ask them to stay away from your group.
 - ❖ Your guide can recommend restaurants, best places for shopping, and additional tourist attractions that are not included on the tour.
 - ❖ You may see sights that you probably would not visit if you were on your own.
 - ❖ You don't have to worry about finding places on your own.
 - ❖ Entrance fees are usually included in the tour price.
 - ❖ You don't have to worry about missing your ship if the tour is a shore excursion purchased on the cruise ship.

ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?

- ❖ Disadvantages of an organized tour
 - ❖ The tour group may be too large for you to hear your guide (unless you have individual earphones).
 - ❖ Your guide may spend too long at one place, not giving you enough time at a place you really are interested in.
 - ❖ Your guide's voice may be irritating, in a monotone, or repetitive.
 - ❖ You may have to wait for people who are late getting to the bus, giving you less time at your next stop.
 - ❖ Restroom stops may be limited or too far apart. Ladies, prepare to spend your rest stop standing in line because all tour companies use the same location for rest stops and there are probably only two or three stalls and not all of them work.

ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?

- ❖ Advantages of being on your own
 - ❖ You can spend as much time as you want viewing your chosen sites.
 - ❖ You can enjoy a leisurely meal at the restaurant of your choice.
 - ❖ You can visit places that would not normally be on a guided tour.
 - ❖ You will experience more of the culture of the area.
 - ❖ You can shop anywhere you wish without worrying about the tour guide getting a kickback or items being too expensive.
 - ❖ You can get good exercise by walking.

ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?

- ❖ Disadvantages of being on your own
 - ❖ Arranging transportation to see the sights may be a challenge. Taxi drivers are not always honest, especially if they realize you don't know the language.
 - ❖ Beware of pickpockets and strangers offering to help.
 - ❖ You will get less detailed information about the places that you visit.
 - ❖ Watch your time carefully and make sure you allow for transportation back to the ship if on a cruise.
 - ❖ You will pay your own entrance fees.
 - ❖ You will probably get lost. Pickpockets prey on tourists who carry maps and guidebooks.

TIPPING

- ❖ Tip only where service is received and according to the level of service that you receive.
- ❖ Many countries do not require you to tip.
- ❖ Some tips are included in the price of the tour.



TIME TO GO HOME

- ❖ If you are on a cruise, give an extra tip to your cabin attendant or waiter if he or she has provided exceptional service.
- ❖ If you purchase large items, consider shipping them home rather than paying for excess or overweight baggage.
- ❖ Keep receipts of any expensive items that you have purchased to include on your customs form.

TIME TO GO HOME



- ❖ If possible, check in on your airline's website and print out your ticket 24 hours in advance of your flight. Many hotels have business centers which have computers and printers available for a small fee.
- ❖ Be sure to weigh your luggage and make sure that you follow TSA rules for items in your carry-on luggage.

TIME TO GO HOME

- ❖ Be at the airport in plenty of time to check in, exchange money, go through customs and security, and get something to eat before boarding the plane.
- ❖ Make sure your customs form is filled out completely and accurately before deplaning to expedite going through customs.
- ❖ Throw away all items that you cannot take through security.

TIME TO GO HOME

- ❖ Check to make sure you have your own bag or bags both in the customs process and at your destination.
- ❖ Make sure you don't leave any items such as coats, jackets, or books in the customs or security area.

Welcome Home!

**HAVE A SAFE AND
WONDERFUL TRIP!**

