



## Top five travelling tips

### **1. Holiday details**

Make sure before you leave that you have all your holiday information with you. For example, details of booking references and contact details from your holiday company, airline, car-hire and hotel. If you need to contact them, this will save time and energy.

### **2. Let someone else take the strain**

When the holidays roll around, lots of people are travelling and this makes for congested roads. If you have to go by car to the airport, it's best to have someone else drive you for a couple of reasons (whether it's a friend, family, or a taxi). First, assuming your driver is responsible, it'll help keep you on a schedule and feel obligated to be ready on time. Second, you won't drive as well if you're nervous about getting to the airport on time. Better to leave that job in the hands of someone who has less at stake and will drive responsibly. Alternatively, you should consider taking public transportation if it's available to you. While most days you'll get there faster by car, on holidays you can sometimes save some time by taking the train or even the bus. If you're not sure what will be faster, check public transportation schedules online and you should be able to estimate the time it will take so you can compare.

### **3. Using Wi-Fi on holiday**

Not all free Wi-Fi is good Wi-Fi, and even if you're on a good Wi-Fi network you want to make sure you do everything you can to stay safe. When you're out at the airport, however, there are a lot of free ad-hoc networks that people create for the purpose of listening for your usernames and passwords. Be wary of the networks you choose and know the network you're signing on to before you start entering private information.

### **4. The 'Little Dears'**

If you're travelling with your kids, you're probably aware of the difficulty. Aside from giving them distractions (like a video game, book, etc.) and reminding them not to make jokes about bombs or terrorism, you want to prepare for the worst. It always helps to keep a few plastic bags in your pocket in case the air sickness bag is missing or too hard to get to (gross, but true). It's also good to split up jobs between parents. For example, in the security line one parent can manage the luggage and the other can manage the kids. The more you plan for messes and split up the work the easier travelling will be.

### **5. Keeping your luggage safe**

There are a lot of ways to help identify luggage, but many of them have become a little too common. Tying a ribbon onto the handle or adding some sort of colour to your bag isn't as unique as it used to be, but creating your own luggage tags is a way to ensure nobody's luggage will look too close to yours. At travel and department stores, you can usually find blank luggage tags that either laminate a piece of paper or have an open slot for a custom tag. Once you have those, just make a design on your computer that's unique to you and print it out. If you want to have truly unique tags, generate a QR code and add it to your tags. This way if there's any dispute you can simply scan the code with your Smartphone to reveal that the bag belongs to you.

Because of the extreme security measures now in place, getting through quickly is basically impossible. You can, however, expedite this process by doing as much preparation as you can ahead of time. First of all, if you're travelling with a laptop you either want to have it out and ready to load into the x-ray tray or purchase a checkpoint-friendly laptop bag so you don't have to remove it at all. You'll also want to have your allowed liquids in one easy-access bag or pouch so you're not busy sorting through your bag. If you're bringing any gifts home, don't wrap them, especially in any foil-based wrapping paper. If you wrap your gifts, they'll probably end up getting unwrapped by security. Finally, be sure to pack neatly. If your bag does get searched, and it happens to everyone at some point, you'll save yourself time if it's packed well. If it's messy, and the delicate balance you've created just to get the suitcase to close is upset, you're going to need to spend a lot more time repacking after security's searched your luggage.