

EXCEL-lent Travel Tips

- +Don't forget your passport and make sure it's valid for 6 months past your return date
- +Check in at least 3 hours prior to your departure time (2 hours for domestic flights)
- +IF a child is traveling internationally without both parents (or parents with different last names) most countries will require a notarized authorization to travel.
- +Pack your medications in your carry-on luggage (labelled, original package)
- +Understand that your hotel room might not be ready until 3pm (and pack accordingly)
- +While you might have advance seat assignments, always reconfirm your seat numbers. The Airlines have the right to change them at any time!
- +Find out if your health insurance will cover you in a foreign country (most of them do not) and ask us for a quote, if necessary.
- + Make at least 2 copies (or take photos with your phone) of your passport, travel vouchers, e-tickets, credit cards, etc
Keep one copy in a safe place and leave one at home with your family
- +Bring a water bottle (empty, to be filled after you have gone through security), some trail-mix or fruit, entertainment and earplugs
- +Wear a fluffy jacket, it's not considered carry-on luggage, but the deep pockets provide extra storage and you can use it as a blanket or pillow
- +Wear loose-fitting clothes (and shoes!) for all the obvious reasons
- +To avoid Jet Lag, drink plenty of water and eat fruit. Avoid alcohol, it dehydrates your body. Eat lightly and when at your destination, exercise and stay awake during the day-time hours. Bring your own pillow-case, and fill it with a sweater or blanket
- +Bring extra glasses, medicines (in original containers – to ease your way through customs), and prescriptions (using generic names – trade names are different abroad!) and pack them in your carry-on luggage. For more info, check www.tsa.gov.
- +Make sure your luggage is clearly labeled (inside and outside, with closed luggage tags) with your name and phone number (not your home address – potential thieves would know that you are not home!)
- +Know your luggage limits, especially for flights originating in other countries.
- +Leave all your US store credit cards and expensive jewelry at home. Don't bring anything you can not afford to have lost or stolen
- +Keep money in more than one place. Should something happen, all will not be lost
- +Use your credit card, whenever possible. You will get a better exchange rate. Let them know in advance that you will be traveling overseas and find out what their fee is for using your card abroad. 1-2 % is the norm, but some of them don't charge at all!
- +Try to buy some local currency in advance (for the first few days abroad), possibly at the airport. The best exchange rate is usually available at the local banks.
- +If you are planning to use ATMs, obtain a list of locations and fees in advance.
- +Ask your hotel's concierge for any restaurant suggestions and reservations.
- +Keep in mind that museums, shops, etc. might be closed on weekends, holidays or certain days of the week.
- +When renting a car, predetermine what your current insurance policy (and possibly credit card company) will cover and decide whether additional coverage is necessary.
- +Have your mail (including newspapers) held at the post office or picked up by a neighbor. Make sure your house number is easily visible from the curb
- +Contact your cell phone provider to determine your options for travelling overseas

- +If you encounter any problems, make sure you address them with a person, who has the authority to do something about it (and get his/her first and last name). Be sure to get any promises in writing! Be sure to contact us if you need ANY assistance!
- +Expect the unexpected and keep an open mind. Different customs, food, language and occasionally unavoidable schedule changes or delays are all part of travelling. Enjoy all these new experiences and accept the unique cultures of the countries you visit.
- + Have a wonderful time!