

Travel Concept Tips

Welcome to Travel Concept's 10 part email series featuring travel tips for all types of destinations.

This series will teach you valuable travel tips and prepare you for any kind of trip. Whether you are traveling for business or going on vacation, traveling the U.S. or abroad, arriving at your destination via air, car, or boat, this information will provide you with insight on everything from packing, to accommodations, to traveling with children. Use it as you prepare for your trip and organize details so you won't forget anything.

1. Before You Go Tips

Over the next few weeks, you'll learn everything you need to know about planning different types of trips and arriving at your destination safely and organized. This week we will focus on what you need to do before you go.

As you begin to plan your trip, you first need to answer these initial questions: Where are you going? How will you get there? How long will you be away? If you are traveling within the U.S., will you be flying, driving, or traveling by train or boat? Is your destination international? Are you traveling for business or pleasure?

You can look for special deals or packages where you get a discounted rate for purchasing a ticket, car, and hotel at the same time. Travel websites, travel agents, and newspapers are all excellent sources for investigating and comparing rates. You may even qualify for discounts and freebies if you are a member of clubs like AAA, participate in certain credit card plans, or belong to a travel agency. Whatever your outlet, be sure to make your reservations early so you can lock in the days you want, including any preferences you require.

It is a good idea to conduct a little research on your destination city or country, especially if you have never been there before. Find out what the weather is like at that particular time of the year. Arrange for any special documentation that you need, like a passport or current driver's license. Check into your medical coverage to see what it includes when you are away from home, and evaluate whether or not you should obtain trip insurance.

Plan a budget for the duration of your trip and determine how much cash or foreign currency you will need. Make sure you have small bills available for tipping. Bring only the credit cards you plan to use and an ATM card, and leave the others at home in a secure place. Determine whether or not you will need traveler's checks.

Finally, before you take off, leave detailed directions for pet sitters and house sitters, including a copy of your travel itinerary and important contact information. If you are boarding your pets, make arrangements with a kennel far in advance. When locking

up your home, don't forget to water your plants, empty the refrigerator, take out the trash, and put a hold on your mail and newspaper delivery. On the day that you leave, adjust the heating or air conditioning, lock all the doors and windows, and arm the security system. Now you can safely go on your way!

Next week we will cover Part 2: Packing Tips