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Tips for Security Lines

According to Forbes Traveler.com there are several tips to ease lines at airport security check points.

1. Liquids and gels - Containers cannot be larger than 3.4 oz. Place items in a clear Ziploc container. Before getting into line toss any water bottles you might have.

2. Empty your pockets before you reach the front of the line.

Jewelry, keys, change, etc should all be slipped into your carry-on bag. Try not to wear a belt and wear easily removable footwear.

3. Tie and stow additional wires or cords for your laptop prior to being x-rayed. Place them in a clear bag near your computer.

Label your laptop for easy identification. Know what batteries are permitted onboard the aircraft.

4. If traveling with children and pets, take infants out of strollers and pets out of carriers. Be prepared to put strollers and carriers through the x-ray machine.

5. Don't forget to be friendly to the security personnel. They work at a difficult and thankless job so a simple "good morning" can make things go smoother.

6. Keep your IDs and boarding passes within easy reach and ready to be opened to your photo page.

Baggage Fees

With fees going up all the time, it might be better to consider shipping your luggage ahead: no hassle at the airport and your luggage will arrive safely at your destination.



Temperatures are Falling!

It's official, Fall has arrived. The days are shorter and the temperatures are dropping. It's a great time to take a trip to Europe: crowds are smaller and fares are lower. Or if you're already dreaming of warmer weather - start planning that Caribbean getaway now!

Poorer Procrastinators

Last year those who waited to book their trips were rewarded with last minute deals. That's not the case for this year, especially for holiday and prime vacation time. For example, a round trip fare on American Airlines from NYC to Chicago cost \$354 on 9/14 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Those same flights priced at \$540 on 10/15. Airlines have been grounding planes and there are fewer seats for sale, so prices go up as availability gets booked.

Viva Italia

No summer crowds and hoteliers are eager to please when you travel the "off-season" to Rome. From \$1395 per person for double occupancy you can stay at the superior first class Rose Garden Hotel, located just a few steps from the Via Veneto. This price includes round trip airfare from JFK via Alitalia, private transfers, accommodations for four nights, buffet breakfast daily, free use of the gym and hotel pool, and the fuel surcharge and taxes. How about planning a romantic trip for Valentine's Day?

Every 10 years

After losing over 20% of its population to the plague in Europe, the people of Oberammergau pledged to perform the *Passion of Jesus Christ* every ten years if their village was spared. Not another villager was lost and in 2010, from May to September, the 41st Passion Play will be performed in Oberammergau, Germany. Several tour operators are offering trips that include a performance, along with stops in other European cities. Call for details.

Travel Insurance

Travelers' first and only line of defense for cancellations or changes in travel plans as a result from the flu is to buy travel protection. If you become ill prior to departure, and have to cancel, you'll be covered. If traveling to a destination that might be susceptible to an outbreak, "cancel for any reason" protection is strongly recommended.

Central Park at Sea

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines is building one of the largest cruise ships in the world - The Oasis of the Seas. December 2009 will see the Oasis sailing from Ft. Lauderdale to the Eastern Caribbean. The ship features Central Park, offering gardens, alfresco dining options and more than 300 staterooms rising six decks to overlook the Park, as well as the Boardwalk, with an Aqua Theater and the first Carousel at sea, games and amusements for the entire family. With seven distinct neighborhoods, everyone can have a unique experience onboard.

Sail Away

If smaller ships are for you, sailing on the Windstar lines might be what you are looking for. Accommodating 148- 312 guests, you can save if you book your Caribbean or European 2010 sailing before Nov. 14.

Passport Info

Make sure when booking travel that you provide your full name as it appears on your passport. Avoid any confusion or problems at immigration by having your tickets match your documents exactly.

I have been attending trade shows and seminars to keep up with all that is new in travel. Off to Italy for some on-site learning in the Veneto region. A full report will appear in my next edition!