

Organizing Tips for Travel

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Getting ready for travel can be simplified by following a few general organizing tips.

Tip #1: Create a Checklist

Having a checklist ensures you remember to pack everything you need for your trip. Make your own personalized checklist or download one of the following from the internet:

- Air travel checklist: <http://www.samplewords.com/organization-travel-checklist.html>
- Car travel checklist: <http://familyfun.go.com/printables/games/printable/travel-car-trip-checklist/travel-car-trip-checklist.html>
- RV travel checklist: <http://www.vacation-lists.com/printable-rv.html>
- Camping Checklist: <http://www.theoutdoorlodge.com/features/checklists/camping.html>
- Train travel checklist:
http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?c=am2Copy&pagename=Amtrak%2Fam2Copy%2FTitle_Image_Copy_Page&cid=1080080554963

Tip #2: Create Your Own Travel Guide

Put together a booklet of information that will be useful for you while on your trip. It can also be reused for future trips. You may want to include the following:

- Itinerary.
- Maps.
- Reservation information (car rental, hotels, equipment rental, and so forth).
- Information on local activities and attractions.
- Restaurant menus (can download menus prior to departing).
- An envelope for gathering trip receipts, brochures, business cards, and so forth.
- Scan and email yourself copies of important travel documents in case they become lost or stolen. If necessary, you can access these duplicates by internet in most places around the world.

Tip #3: Make a Kid-Kit

The following suggestions can be packed into a book bag to help keep younger children occupied during long trips:

- DVDs, music CDs, and books on tape can be checked out from your local library.
- Snacks.
- Crossword puzzles, word searches, Sudoku, etc.
- Coloring books and crayons.
- Electronic games.
- Favorite toy or stuffed animal.

Tip #4: Luggage Packing Wisdom

- Identify luggage with your email address instead of your home address to help prevent from being burglarized while you are away.
- Use zip topped bags for storing liquids to keep from leaking into luggage.
- Make your luggage identifiable to you. Wrap the handle with bright colored electrical tape or put a colorful tag on the handle.
- Group children's outfits into zip topped bags to keep clean clothes separate from dirty laundry.
- Use zip topped bags for grouping together items such as jewelry, toiletries, passport and tickets, and so forth.
- Use shower caps to cover shoes to keep dirt away from clothing.
- Keep clothing smelling fresh by placing several dryer sheets inside luggage.

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