

1.

Getting Bargains

Comparison Shop!

The web is full of discount travel websites that offer deals and bargains on a regular basis. If you have flexible dates, times or locations, the deals can be even better. Here are some popular travel sites:

<http://www.expedia.com/Default.asp>

<http://www.orbitz.com/>

<http://www.travelocity.com/>.

2.

Flexible Travel

The more flexible you are, the more opportunities for getting a better deal you have. Check into standby travel. Some airlines have special deals for last-minute travelers. In addition, there are travel clubs to let you get group rates. Plus, you get to meet new people.

3.

Tips: Pre-Travel Preparations

1. Be sure to renew your passport and to change the name on your passport, if necessary, before you travel. The name on your ticket must match the name on your passport.
2. Make sure you have a pen handy, A pen with a cord is useful. Place around your neck and you will not have to search for a pen for quick note taking.

3. When traveling to a foreign country, try to find out some of the laws of that country.
4. Make sure you're going to have communications: US cell phones do not work overseas.
5. If you plan to buy clothing gifts while traveling, take a list of the garment measurements which you know will fit each person. This is especially helpful for children, since ages can correspond to totally different sizes depending on country. Then carry a tape measure with you wherever you go.
6. When traveling with others print out the day's itinerary on note cards (laminated) and give them to each person.
7. If you go out of the country, look up the emergency numbers of the country you go to.
8. It is advisable to keep copies of medical reports on X-ray, ECG and blood/urine or any other tests prescribed by the family doctor. You can copy the files to your computer and keep it on a small drive if needed.
9. At least a few weeks before your trip, write out a list of things that you think you'll need and want to bring along on your trip. When you are

ready to re-pack to come home, you can check off your belongings on the list to make sure that you haven't left anything behind.

10. Sending Postcards While You're Away - Type or write out address labels to send cards back home. It saves you taking your address book, which could be lost, and also saves you time when writing out postcards.
11. Before you travel check what the weather is likely to be like at your destination.
12. Some countries overseas will not accept American money; Paris and Ireland, for instance. It's very easy to have money exchanged at your local bank before leaving. There is a one time fee, regardless of how much money you order. More than one person can order together and split the fee. You can exchange money at an airport, but it must be done individually and the lines are long. Most itineraries do not allow for time to do this. If you have an ATM card, you can get money exchanged through an ATM overseas.
13. Before going overseas, contact your local long distance company and get them to change your billing for one month to the international rate. It's very cheap and inexpensive to dial home or have your loved ones reach you. Make sure you leave your

phone numbers where you will be staying and the dates at home.

14. For International travel tips see: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html.

4.

Virtual Travel

Many hotels and resorts offer online tours of their property. This can help give you a feel for what to expect once you arrive. Also, it can be helpful to see what other travelers had to say about their stay. Some places are better for families, while others may be better suited to a couple on their honeymoon. To see some reviews visit <http://www.tripadvisor.com/>.