

Carrentals.co.uk Family Travel Tips No. 6 – Holiday Extras

The annual holiday is a major fixture – and major expense – in most households, so everyone wants it to go smoothly. Flight delays, early morning or late night flight departure times, and inadequate insurance are just some of the areas that can turn the best-laid travel plans sour. Here Carrentals.co.uk looks at the tips for ensuring your holiday runs more smoothly....

- 1) **Insure** – Insurance is the dullest part of any family holiday, but it can prove invaluable should the worst happen. Most tour operators or travel agents will have policies they offer to you, but shop around and make sure you purchase an insurance policy that meets your specific requirements. For example, if you are taking part in water sports be sure you are covered for any accidents, and check things like the level of cover for lost luggage. There is also a growing choice of annual insurance options, and some health insurance plans also include travel cover.
- 2) **Airport Hotels** – If you've booked an early morning flight, or if you're returning in the small hours, airport hotels can help your holiday start or end on a much happier note, particularly if you're travelling with family. The launch of various websites offering hotel deals, and the opening of new hotels, means you can often find great deals on airport accommodation.
- 3) **Airport Parking** – The price of airport parking can quickly bring you back down from a holiday high. Luckily there is a growing range of car parks around most airports in the UK – generally the further they are from the airport the cheaper the prices, but they are still easy to use as most offer a drop off and pick up minibus service. Many hotels will also offer the option for guests to leave their car while away, which can be more cost effective. Booking in advance will generally mean you can get a better deal, and some organisations, such as the AA, offer members discounts on airport car parking.
- 4) **A taste of luxury** – Access to the lounges at an airport provides a great way to kick your holiday off in style. Peaceful, relaxing and offering a choice of drinks and snacks, at many airports you can pre-book access to a lounge, providing an escape from the humdrum of the airport.

- 5) **Labels, Labels** – Issues such as flight delays, luggage handling disputes and the sheer volume of travellers, mean that your luggage may not end up in the same location as you. Ensure you have all of your bags clearly, and securely, labelled, so if your bags do get lost you'll have more chance of having them returned after your holiday.
- 6) **Clever Packing** – Always take a piece of hand luggage to hold essential items such as any medications for your family, baby essentials, money and credit cards. Make sure this too is clearly labelled in case it's mislaid.
- 7) **Check-In** – On certain airlines you can now check in on-line 24-hours before departure, and it may even be possible to book specific seats through the airline's website. This means no queuing at check-in the next day and the comfort of having seats together for families. Check with your airline as to whether they offer this option.
- 8) **Money Money Money** – Shop around for your holiday currency. Travel agents, the Post Office, banks and a growing number of websites give you a choice of where to get currency or travellers cheques from, so you don't always need to pay commission, and with some of the online facilities they'll deliver the money direct to your door.

Disclaimer - These tips are not exhaustive and are for information only. Carrentals.co.uk can not be held responsible for any losses incurred as a result of acting on any information contained herein.

Useful websites include www.holidayextras.co.uk