

Libby's top 20 Travel Tips

1. Be excited you are going on vacation!!!!!!
2. SMILE, it is best ice breaker for meeting your fellow group members. Who doesn't want to talk to someone with a big smile. Get to know your group members.
3. Be patient traveling with a group can take a little longer in getting luggage and boarding the bus.
4. Pack light, since you will be having to handle your luggage at times by yourself, so you must be able to lift your luggage.
5. Pack one extra set of clothes just in case your luggage is delayed. Also pack small snacks in your carry on just in case food is not readily available when you get hungry.
6. I recommend taking 2 different types of credit cards. American Express is not always accepted in many foreign establishments. I usually take a Visa Card and American Express.
7. Call your credit card company and let them know the dates you will be traveling and the countries you will be visiting so that they do not interrupt your card service and place a hold till they can speak to you and verify the charging activity is valid.
8. I like to travel with about \$50.00 in U.S. \$1.00 bills and \$50.00 in fives. Most people in foreign countries will accept the U.S. Dollar but they will never have the proper change for your purchase. I find paying for small purchases with street vendors and small mom and pop shops with dollar bills very helpful.
9. You will need to purchase local currency as taxis and public transportation do not always accept credit cards. I like to order my currency through my bank. Typically, your bank will require a minimum of 14 days advanced notice. Next best option for a currency exchange will be the airport money exchange before leaving the airport.
10. Make copies of your passport and place one in your carry on and one in your luggage and take a picture of your passport on your phone. If your passport is lost or stolen, having this information will expedite getting a reissue of your passport.
11. Your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the date of your return. This is for your protection in case something should happen that would prevent you from returning home on your scheduled return date.
12. Learn a few common words in the local language. There are several good language translator apps that can be downloaded to your phone for free.

13. Activate your phone's global capabilities. My phone service charges \$12.00 per 24 hours increments. If you do not use it you will not be charged.
14. Check the voltage for your electronics so that you bring the proper adapters.
15. I recommend being very selective with your food choices when eating meals in other countries. Depending on the country you are visiting I personally will not eat any salads or raw fruits or vegetables that I cannot peel or have not been cooked. I will not eat any cream sauces or meats of any kind. Most important if you order water to go with your meal, ask for the bottle to be brought to you unopened. If the seal is broken send it back. Otherwise, you will most likely be drinking tap water, increasing your chances of getting food poisoning. Again, with all depends on the country you are visiting.
16. I recommend getting a 7 day supply of the Antibiotics from your physician. Just in case you become ill while traveling this will get you the road to speedy recovery.
17. Download apps to your phone for guidebooks to the countries you are visiting.
18. Call your airlines directly to special order your meals for your long haul flights. Cut off time is typically 48 hours prior to flight departure time. You can also go online at your airline's website to special order meals. You will be amazed at the special meal choices that you have to choose from, Vegan, Gluten Free, Kosher, Vegetarian and the list goes on and on.
19. When you arrive at your hotel be sure to pick up a Hotel Business Card. If a business card is not available, be sure to do a screen shot of your hotel and address to add to your photo gallery. This will be very helpful if you cannot remember the name of the hotel or the address of the hotel when you are away from the hotel exploring the city. Some cities may have multiple locations with the same name.
- 20 You may arrive solo but you will not return back home alone. Sharing your travel experience will bring you closer to your traveling companions in developing many new lifelong friendships.