

Travel Secrets

Here are some invaluable secrets for easy travels:

- **Know the Schedule**

Take a printout of all flights between your departure and arrival cities with you to the airport. If you voluntarily (or involuntarily) get bumped, you can book a flight that gets you to your destination in a reasonable timeframe.

- **Late Night Assistance**

The after-hours staff at most global hotels often have more free time to assist you in making plans (making restaurant reservations, day trips, unique cultural events and exhibits) than those at prime check-in/check-out hours.

- **Dine Like a Native**

To really experience a destination fully and enjoy the best meal in town, sign up for a morning or afternoon cooking class. You'll dine like a native and pick up other valuable travel tips from your fellow students.

- **Driving Cheap**

It is often cheaper to rent cars from city center locations rather than airport ones. Compare the rates they're charging before you book a car.

- **Mix It Up**

When booking air travel using miles, you don't have to arrive and depart in the same city. For example, fly into Brussels and leave from Paris for the same number of miles.

- **My Hometown**

I always carry a small map of the US, and three to four postcards of my hometown. When I am asked where I live, I just pull them out.

- **Already Insured?**

Before purchasing the overpriced car insurance pushed by the car rental companies, check with your credit card companies. Many will often insure your rental car providing it is paid in full on their card. Some will also e-mail you documentation to show proof of coverage at time of rental. This service is often available when traveling outside the U.S. as well.

- **Into the Sunrise**

Always take the first nonstop flight in the morning to your destination to avoid delays.

- **Document the Documents**

E-Mail important info like phone numbers, travelers check numbers, passport info and scans of important documents like birth certificates to yourself. Type in a unique subject line so you can retrieve this emergency info from most anywhere in the world. But definitely make sure to encrypt the e-mail so that no one but you can access this information.