



— *the* —
**SMART
FAMILY'S
PASSPORT**



VALUABLE TIPS *from*
SEASONED TRAVELERS

by NINA WILLDORF *and*
the readers of BUDGET
TRAVEL MAGAZINE



QUIRK BOOKS
PHILADELPHIA

Copyright © 2010 by TK

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Number: [TK]

ISBN: 978-1-59474-448-8

Printed in China

Typeset in Bembo, Helvetica, OCRA, OCRB, and Trade Gothic

Designed by Doogie Horner
Page layout by Steve DeCusatis
Production management by John J. McGurk

Distributed in North America by Chronicle Books
680 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Quirk Books
215 Church Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
www.irreference.com
www.quirkbooks.com

CONTENTS <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

INTRODUCTION < 6

- 01 PREPARE FOR TAKEOFF: PLANNING A FAMILY TRIP < 8
- 02 ORGANIZING ALL THAT GEAR: THE KEY TO PACKING < 24
- 03 BORN TO TRAVEL: VACATIONING WITH BABIES < 40
- 04 THE DRIVE: ROAD-TRIP TACTICS < 56
- 05 AIRPORTS AND AIRPLANES: FLYING WITH THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS < 70
- 06 HOME AWAY FROM HOME: YOUR LODGINGS < 86
- 07 AT YOUR DESTINATION: EXPLORING MADE EASY < 100
- 08 SAFETY PATROL: KEEPING YOUR CLAN SECURE < 116
- 09 PLANET AMUSEMENT PARK: TO DISNEY AND BEYOND < 132
- 10 THE VACATION AT SEA: CRUISING WITH YOUR CREW < 148
- 11 FOREIGN DESTINATIONS: FINDING YOUR WAY IN EXOTIC PLACES < 162
- 12 TECH TALK: ELECTRONICS TO GO < 178
- 13 BUG BITES AND OTHER BOTHERS: TRAVEL REMEDIES < 190
- 14 CLEANUP TIME: DEALING WITH VACATION GRIME < 204
- 15 SOUVENIRS AND SNAPSHOTS: DOCUMENTING YOUR ADVENTURES < 214

INDEX < 220

ABOUT THE AUTHOR < 224

Introduction

Traveling these days can be overwhelming. Finding the right hotel online, packing a bag small enough to carry on, navigating airport security—wouldn't it be great if there were a simple solution to make travel easier, cheaper, and better?

Here's the next best thing: hundreds of *little* ways to do just that. *Budget Travel* recognizes that every traveler has his or her own bag of tricks. Three years ago, the magazine devoted a section, 20 Tips, to real people's travel-related advice. It quickly became a favorite of both the readers and the editors.

The tips in this book are the 349 best ones we've received. Some will strike you as brilliant. Others will remind you of yourself or a companion (who doesn't love a Ziploc bag?). Still others may come across as absurd. But one day, a seemingly silly tip will emerge from deep within your consciousness, saving the day, and you'll be grateful to have read it.

Don't thank us. Instead, thank everyone who ever submitted a tip. And don't be stingy: If you have a good tip of your own, send it to us at Tips@BudgetTravelOnline.com. Together, we can find a smarter way to travel.

NINA WILLDORF

Editor in Chief

Budget Travel and BudgetTravelOnline.com

READY TO WEAR Pack your children's (and your own!) complete outfits—shirt, shorts/pants, underwear, socks—in gallon-size reusable Ziploc bags. Each morning, instead of tearing apart the suitcase to find various items, all your child has to do is grab a bag.

Kim Thompson, Long Lake, Minn.

FLIP YOUR LID If you're packing a container that has a pump or a cap—such as the bottles that hold lotion or sunscreen—replace the top with one from a 20-ounce soda bottle. It's almost always a perfect fit, and you won't have to worry about leaks.

Emily Butler, Mechanicsburg, Pa.



WALK THIS WAY<<<<<<<<<<<

Unless you're traveling with an infant who is too young to sit up, try to make do with only an umbrella stroller—one that folds up easily and compactly. Most airlines allow you to check it at the gate, and it'll be conveniently waiting right outside the plane door when you arrive.

Helene Honeybone, Dallas, Tex.



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER I keep a master packing list on my computer for my daughter and me. Whenever we travel, I update the list and print a copy for my daughter. She feels very grown-up packing her own things, and I feel less pressured. On big trips, I bring the checklist to review and make sure we don't leave anything behind when we're heading home.

Laura Sueoka, submitted at BudgetTravel.com

FISHERMAN'S CATCHALL Rather than packing our bags with batteries, memory cards, asthma inhalers, and countless other small items, I now wear a fishing vest while on vacation. The vest has lots of small pockets to hold all the things we might need throughout the day, and it leaves my hands free. Better yet, at airport security, I don't have to empty my pockets. I just put the vest through the scanner, walk through the X-ray, and head to my gate.

Doug Broleman, St. Louis, Mo.

BLANKIE STATEMENTS Bring along a comfort item from home. Both of our kids are allowed one stuffed animal and one blanket; that seems to make the transition to new places much easier.

Laura Schaefer, Pittsburgh, Pa.

CORK IT When packing scissors, stick the points into a cork. That way you can be sure your kids won't accidentally cut themselves while rooting through a bag.

Dolores Calamari, Hilton Head Island, S.C.



THE PARKA PILLOW <<<<<<<

While packing for a camping trip to Yellowstone National Park, it occurred to me that, instead of taking pillows, we could place our down coats inside our pillowcases. Just turn each coat inside out, form it into a pillow shape, and stuff it in the case.

Kathy Walle, Gettysburg, Pa.



IN A JIF Always carry peanut butter. It comes in a plastic jar that's easy to pack, doesn't need refrigeration, is a great source of protein, and, when paired with bread, makes a quick, cheap meal. (Just don't forget to pack a plastic knife for spreading.)

Nancy Norman, Lancaster, N.Y.

HANG ON—AND ON These days even the nicest hotels have a lack of hooks and towel bars in the bedroom and bathroom. With several wet towels and bathing suits to hang, I now know to always pack a stash of removable hooks. They're inexpensive and don't take up much room in a suitcase, and you can apply and remove them without leaving marks. Then you can reuse them on your next trip.

Marilyn Opp, Stillwater, Minn.