

A Lifetime Of Travel

By Bill & Marlene Klett

Travelers Circle Program, HI-Minnesota USA

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"Tips" for Travelers:

1. Never buy anything in an airport other than a newspaper! Bring an empty plastic bottle for water & fill it AFTER you have gone thru security.
2. "Oktoberfest" Most tables in the bier tents are reserved for afternoon & evening. So go early or go to one of the WINE tents where seats are usually available & bier is also served.
3. For pocket-sized maps of small towns in Europe, buy used copies of Michelin RED guides & tear them out for lighter travel. Restaurants, hotels, AND sites are clearly marked.
4. Passports: Frequent travelers should purchase the large passport. If you travel to several countries in Central & South America on one trip, you may have to have a totally clear page for EACH country you travel to & from. Our recent trip to 4 countries in Central America required each of us to have FOUR totally clear pages. So, when you travel where passports are stamped, use a paper clip & ask the officials to stamp partially filled pages rather than start new pages. Xerox copies of you passport & carry seperately.
5. CDC (U. S.Center for Disease Control). Be sure to use its web site 6 weeks or more before you travel, particularly to countries where Malaria is a risk, because some meds & innoculations must be started long BEFORE you start your trip. We have taken the standard anti-malaria pills & suffered NO side effects or malaria. Rural Belize has lots of mosquitos. Malaria is the #1 cause of death in Africa.
6. Car Rentals: Go "Green" & request a sub-compact or compact car. They are often unavailable & the agency will offer you an "upgrade" at the same price. Demand the best mileage upgrade they have.
7. Gifts to foreign hosts & friends. A bottle of Aspirin is a good one for Europeans. When we lived in Germany, a single Aspirin cost about \$0.25! You can get about 100 aspirins for a dollar at Walgreens.
8. Snorkeling. NEVER, EVER snorkle without wearing a T-shirt & cap, especially in equatorial water. I learned the hard way!
9. Laundry: NEVER, EVER send soiled clothes to a HOTEL laundry! We paid \$60 for laundering ten articles of no-press clothing at a hotel in Santiago, Chile! Instead, check the neighborhood for a small laundry & pay about \$3.00 for the same # of articles. OR buy throw-away underwear at travel stores. We'll show you some.
10. Best Buy for bus trips into Mexico: Sanborn Tours @ 800-395-8482 or <www.sanborns.com> . \$560 for 7 day trip to Mexico City/Taxco/Cuernavaca/San Miguel
11. Evergreen Club: <www.evergreenclub.com> For "mature" travelers (age 55 & up). Stay in members' homes for \$15.00/night, breakfast included! We have belonged to Evergreen for over 15 years and never had a bad experience.

12. Join International Hosteling. Give your used guide books to the IH Library.
13. Don't pack meds, keys, or anything you might need in suitcases to be shipped. Learn to pack your things in one "carry on" size suitcase. Yes, ONE!
14. Leave an itinerary of your trip with someone back home.
15. Do NOT carry large purses. Only a small one that can be carried across the chest & carry only what's needed for the day. Sometimes, it is safest to carry NO PURSE! Use the safety deposit box in hotel.
16. Don't start exploring a town without the address & phone # of the place where you are staying.
17. Interested in "Volksmarching"? Contact the American Volkspport Assn. @ 1-800-830-WALK. There is an annual International Guidebook to volksmarches all over the world. We have taken IVV marches in Germany, France, Mexico, & Hawaii.
18. Try to learn a few basic expressions in the language of the countries you will visit.
19. In Europe, do not point with a finger. It is considered rude. Point with the hand.
20. In Singapore, DO NOT chew gum, complain about the weather, bring up World War II (a very painful subject), forget to flush a public toilet, bring Durian on public transportation, purchase or use any illegal drugs. The latter could cost you your life as it did two young men when last we visited there.

Happy Trails! Bill & Marlene Klett

References & "Tips" For Traveling:

Refs.:

1. "Der Neue Grosse Shell Atlas," Mairs Geographisches Verlag. An atlas of Germany & Europe with maps ranging in size from 1 cm = 125 m to 1 cm = 15 km's. Absolutely indispensable for driving in GY. The German Automobile Club's "ADAC Atlas" is just a good. Those maps of the whole country just don't show small towns & villages.
2. "Ein Wanderfuhrer fur Biertrinker," 4 vols. by Hollhuber & Kaul. Guidebooks for people who like to hike from one town's brewery to another. Many of these beers are available ONLY "vom Fass" (on tap). In German, but maps are maps & pubs are pubs.
3. "Germany: A Phaidon Cultural Guide," Phaidon Press Ltd., Oxford. Descriptions & photos of 750 of Gy's churches, castles, palaces, theatres, museums, & works of art. Essential for those who want to know more about architectural details than guide books provide. Michelin Guidebooks are next best in quality.
4. "The Beer Drinker's Guide to Munich," Hawthorne, L. Freizeit publishers. In English & like others probably available from Amazon.com
5. "Hitler & Munich," Deming, B. & Ilff, T. Historical Guide to sights & addresses of Munich important to Hitler, his henchmen, & his victims. Excellent map with 45 historical sites.
6. "The Best of Jim Herriott," (from "All Creatures Great & Small," etc.) by the world's most famous veternerian about a unique gallery of characters, animal & human. Remember the PBS series? Great for understanding the Thirsk & York area of Great Britain.
7. "International Travel News (ITN)," A newsprint type magazine with articles written mostly by travelers. Write for a free copy <editor@intltravelnews.com>. Tips.
8. "Mexico": A Guide to the Archaeological Sites of Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala. Domenici, D. 2001. Published by Barnes & Noble of New York & a great bargain at \$15! Excellent color photos & diagrams of the various ruins.
9. "The Grown-ups Guide to Running Away From Home," Rosanne Knorr, 2008
10. Guidebooks: For details, the "Blue" & "Rough" guidebooks are in a class by themselves. We also like both the red & green Michelin Guidebooks. The "Eyewitness" guidebooks are excellent for their point to point sightseeing walks, but too heavy to take with. Xerox their maps & leave the books at home. Frommer, Fodor, & Steves guidebooks are useful.
10. Minnesota: "Courthouses of MN," "Schoolhouses of MN," "Cabins of MN," & "Churches of MN," al by Doug Ohman & all from MN Historical Society Press.
11. "AIA Guide to the Twin Cities," Millett, MN Historical Society Press. An outstanding guide to 1,500 architectural structures. Absolutely the most meticulously researched guide to buildings we have ever encountered. A "must" if ever there was one!
12. Tip. Bring U.S. dollars to get out of Peru (\$30.00) & into Chile (\$100.00). No credit cards or checks accepted.