

100 TRAVEL TIPS

A photograph of an airport gate area. In the foreground, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark winter coat with a fur-lined hood, stands with her hand on the handle of a white rolling suitcase. To her right, a man is seen from the back, wearing a brown jacket and carrying a large red backpack. In the background, there is a large window looking out onto an airfield with several airplanes. A sign above the window reads "Portes Gates C". An orange flag with the word "Jet" is visible in the background.

WOLFGANG RIEBE

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100 TRAVEL TIPS

FOREWORD

Welcome to 100 Travel Tips! What can you expect in this book? Simply put, practical tips that will make your travel experience easier and less stressful. In the last 27 years I have travelled to and worked in over 150 countries, flown most airlines and worked on many top cruise liners. You will find a wealth of information based on personal experience from someone who has learnt the 'hard way,' in 3 sections within this Ebook.

[Before the trip](#)

[At the airport and on the plane](#)

[At your destination](#)

Also, each main category has been subdivided into sub topics such as baggage, forex, hotels, etc. so as to add a logical sequence behind the entire planning process.

I trust you enjoy the tips and that they help turn your next trip into a great experience.

Warmest regards



BEFORE THE TRIP

RESEARCH

Firstly you need to plan your trip. Where do you want to go do and how much do you want to spend. Ideally do searches on the Internet and visit various travel agents to research all the options available to you.

Once you have reached a decision, you can book the trip. That's only the start, now you have some preparation to do...

PASSPORTS

The most obvious! Make sure your passport is valid of at least another 6 months after your return.

Always, always, always have at least two copies of your passport and travel documents. One set you keep at home and the other in one of your suitcases. If your passport is lost or stolen, you cannot prove who you are or even visit your consulate in a foreign country without identification. Like this at least you have a spare copy on you, and if all else fails, another copy safely at home. Always take a photo of your passport on your phone so that you have a copy on you at all times!

In most cities you can buy a holder for your passport. These are really practical as you can store your frequent flyer and boarding cards in them as well. Thus everything to do with your flight is in one holder.

Visas. The requirements change daily! Check whether you need one and leave ample time before the trip to apply for your visa.

BOOKING YOUR HOTEL

Some hotels, especially family hotels, offer a fully inclusive package with meals and certain beverages included. Often they have facilities and events to keep the children occupied during the day as well. There are great deals out there, but you need to look for them.

Package tours are often advertised at good prices, however you need to remember that you do not have much freedom to do your own thing. There are set times and set activities. If you want freedom, you have to plan your own thing.

If you are a light sleeper and sensitive to noise - NEVER book a room next to an

elevator! Also, give preference to inside facing rooms and not rooms facing the street - this will reduce car and highway noise. Always have a set of earplugs on you.

Some hotels don't offer free coffee and tea in the rooms and have no kettle. Check for this when booking. Or travel with a small heating element so you can make coffee in your room. Also carry some coffee, milk and sugar sachets with you. This saves a lot of money.

Booking through an agent, or specialist Internet sites is often cheaper than booking direct. These agents get special rates.

Booking anything, from flights to hotels, is much cheaper 'out of season, than 'in season.' Good to know if you are on a tight budget.

A central hotel may be slightly more expensive than a hotel on the outskirts of a city. But when you add the travel costs into the equation to get to all the sights, it may be cheaper at the end of the day to book the central hotel.

Few hotels have an iron and board in the cupboard. Some will let you use one by phoning the 'House Keeping' department. Most hotels don't have this and charge you premium rates for ironing. Check this beforehand. Alternatively pack a small travel iron.

Few hotels have an umbrella available. If you are going to a city where the weather will be bad, pack a small collapsible umbrella. It will be cheaper to buy it at home than from the peddler outside the hotel!

Many hotel rooms have strong air conditioners that dry out your skin and nose. Make sure you have packed a moisturiser.

YOUR AIR TICKET

Choose the seat you want when booking the flight ticket. Never leave it for the day you check in at the airport.

Check in on-line if you can 24 hours before - this is much easier and saves you standing in queues at the airport.

Today some airports let you download your boarding pass on your phone - find out about this, it is very convenient.

Be very aware that when booking an economy air ticket, many airlines have a price that includes full 'air-miles' (for people that collect air miles) as well as a non air mile price. Guess what? The non air mile price is usually MUCH cheaper.

In fact, according to my calculations, you pay much more at the end of the day for a ticket redeemed on air miles, than you would just paying the cheapest fare. However, you need to remember that the cheaper fare does have limitations and restrictions on it. If you fly business or first class - it doesn't really make a difference. This mainly applies to economy/coach class.

Also, be aware of the restrictions on a cheaper ticket. If there is a chance that you may need to change your ticket, rather pay the extra cost when making the original booking, as it will cost you much more to make any changes at a later date.

If you are booking a flight with a stop over, check the time between flights. If it is too short, you may miss the connection. If it is too long, are you prepared to sit in an airport for 8 hours? In this case rather book a hotel so that you can relax.

FOREX

Always order small denomination local currency before you leave. This is useful for tips, train rides, short taxi fares, cold drinks etc. There is nothing worse than arriving in a foreign city and having no cash on you. Often Bureau De Change's run out of small notes - so order it a few days before, especially if you buy from a Bank!

Your credit card WILL NOT always work in a foreign country. Plan to phone your bank or credit card company well before you leave and get them to authorise foreign use. Also make sure you have a pin no if you need to draw cash in a foreign city.

Take only the bare minimum credit cards and other bankcard you need. If anything is lost or stolen, at least you have something left at home.

PHONES

It is often cheaper to buy a pre-paid SIM card in a foreign country and use this, than pay the foreign roaming charges on your own phone. Be very aware about foreign roaming costs - many people have been shocked at the bills on their return home from a holiday. Remember that even if someone phones you from home, the phone company charges that call to you! It's called 'roaming charges' and they can be a very nasty surprise on your return home! find out via the net before you leave, what options are available to you in that country. Thus go for a local SIM card. Rather book into hotels that have free WiFi and make WhatsApp calls instead.

BAGGAGE & PACKING

Pack spare toiletries and essentials in case you cannot find any at your destination. Always bear in mind the fluid and spray can limitations for hand luggage - 100ml.

Always carry a universal adapter with you. Plugs vary in foreign countries and on the plane. These can be bought in most electrical stores, or even at the airport at a premium price.

People actually complain that 20kg baggage is too little. As a frequent traveller my family and I only travel with hand luggage. That 20kg luggage allowance is more than ample. Stop packing unnecessary items. Also, if you look at the cost of excess baggage, it's way cheaper to buy a T-shirt or clothes in the foreign city than paying the excess baggage costs!

If you really have tons of little items that take up space and fill your hand luggage, consider buying one of those photographer's jackets or waistcoats. They have tons of pockets and you can store many items here, saving precious baggage space.

Always have a change of underwear and socks in your hand luggage if you check in your main bag. Imagine it gets lost for a day or two and you arrive in a foreign city after a 12-hour flight and have no change of underwear? Need I say more?

Always have a bag pre-packed with most items you need, ready in your cupboard. Thus if you have a last minute flight to catch, all you need to add is one or two items of clean clothing. Everything should be in there already, from toiletries to your passport. You will be amazed at how much time this saves.

Keep your hand baggage within the size limitations and weight. Airlines will pull you aside if they suspect it is over weight or too large. Also, an aluminium case may look smart, but it also looks heavier than a leather case. Odds are you'll be pulled over with an aluminium case - just a thought!

If you roll your clothes in the suitcase, you can literally get in twice to three times as much.

Pack minimal clothes. Many people work on three sets of clothes and every night they return to the hotel room they wash everything in the bath or shower, giving it a day to dry. In this way you rotate between the three sets and can travel with minimum baggage. This is ideal for short business trips.

Put a business card or hand written address card inside your baggage in case it

gets lost. Name tags on the outside of a bag ALWAYS get ripped off. In this way, at least when they open the bag, they can identify who it belongs to. Add the hotel details as well when checking in on an outbound flight.

Pack small items in your shoes - this saves space.

Stick a colourful sticker on your bag, or highly colourful tape around the handle so that it stands out and you can identify it. Yes, buying a bright red bag helps, but other people buy them too. Make a point of doing something to your bag that it immediately stands out from the rest and enables you to identify it straight away.

Ladies handbags! Re-pack them before going on a trip in case you have fluids and non-friendly security items in it. There is nothing worse than having to empty your handbag in front of everyone.

Be aware of the culture of the country you are travelling too. If you end up in a conservative country where most women are covered up, you will get into trouble if you walk around in a T-shirt and shorts.

Similarly, from a business perspective, make sure you are aware of the business etiquette in a foreign culture. One mistake on your part could ruin a huge deal!

Always leave space in your baggage when you leave. Often you will buy souvenirs, receive gifts, or have extra items on your return. There is nothing worse than having to buy an extra bag, or being over-weight when returning home.

Video and still camera's take up huge amounts of packing space, and can be stolen. Most people focus so much on taking pictures, they never really enjoy the environment they are in. Today mobile phones have advanced so much and many come complete with built in HD video cameras, high quality still picture cameras, and access to the Internet. These phones can fit into your pocket and do everything your laptop, video and still camera can do. Plus, by using your mobile phone you will save tons of space!

YOUR HOME

If you have pets, have you arranged for someone to feed them, or booked them into a pet care centre?

If you are away longer than a month, it may be worth your while to stop cable fees and other services during that time. You are not there anyway, so why pay for it?

Has the garden service, pool service been informed of your absence. Have you made alternative plans?

Switch off your hot water cylinder before you leave. Again you save costs on electricity. Also, should something go wrong with your hot water cylinder while you are away, how will you handle coming home to a flooded house because the water cylinder burst?

Arrange with a close friend or family member access to your home. Also supply them with all the important telephone numbers in case of an emergency, i.e. fire, theft, etc. so that they can notify the respective insurance firms/authorities if something happens.

Whoever is looking after your home, give them all your contact details at your destination. You never know if there is an emergency and they need to contact you.

Some people buy timers for their lights. These they set at predetermined times so that the lights in their home switch on and off while they are away - giving the impression that someone is at home.

If you have live plants, place them in container with water so that they don't die while you are away. For longer periods of time, organise for someone to do this for you.

GENERAL

Make a checklist before you travel which you can tick off before you leave. Believe me, one people always forget something. This covers you and should include everything from contact lenses to universal adaptors.

Check your travel insurance as well as medical insurance. Some credit cards only cover basic travel insurance when you buy the ticket through them. You may need to top this up.

Travel with a basic medicine kit, especially painkillers, plasters and hay fever tablets. Try finding a tablet you are familiar with in a foreign country! Almost impossible!

If you are going on a sea cruise, most ships only need you to have a visa (if applicable) for the arrival and departure port. Check this beforehand.

Before going on a cruise, find out whether you get seasick and take medication before you leave for the cruise. There is nothing worse than staying in bed on the ship for two days while recovering from seasickness after the on-board doctor has supplied you with over-priced medication.

Is your driver's licence valid in the foreign country? You may have to get yourself an international licence. The AA usually does this for you.

If you have an itinerary planned (business or social) have it summarised on one sheet of paper that you can carry with you. It simplifies things.

If you must take your special brand conditioner with you, pack it in the checked in luggage. Remember you are limited to 100ml liquids in carry-on baggage. Alternatively visit your local drug store or pharmacy and purchase some smaller travel bottles. Decant everything into these.

Yes, many countries have unique souvenirs - don't buy them all. Most are made in Taiwan anyway. Odds are you will find the same souvenirs back home. Obviously there will be occasions where you can buy a once off unique item. That's fine - but be aware of all the tourist junk out there too.

For some or other reason people feel the need to bring back gifts for their entire social circle after a trip. It takes time, money and baggage space to buy these gifts. Many people spend their whole holiday looking for gifts to take home, rather than actually take a break and enjoy their holiday! Focus on what is important!



AT THE AIRPORT & ON THE PLANE

BAGGAGE

When you arrive at the airport and want to check in your luggage - check the receipt you are issued, and make sure it corresponds with your destination and name. If your luggage gets lost and the receipt is wrong, you may never see your bags again!

Buy hand luggage with wheels and a handle, so that you can pull it behind you. No matter how light it is, it gets heavy if you have to carry it!

CHECKING-IN AND WAITING FOR THE FLIGHT

Although it has become more difficult to request upgrades, or change your seat, you will be amazed what a smile and politeness can do. Need I say more?

People eat a lot of junk when travelling, and are always full. However, many people wait to eat until when they get onto the plane. What happens if take off is delayed and you have to wait an extra hour before being served any food? Always have a small emergency supply with you.

Don't advertise your home address on your baggage labels! Thieves walk around the airport and even strike up conversations with you. All the while memorising your home address so that they can break in while you are away.

Check where the boarding gate is. Often when you decide to have a meal in a restaurant, or visit a lounge, the boarding gate is far away. When they do call the flight, you don't have time to make it to the gate and are unloaded off the flight. Watch the flight information boards around you as well.

BUSINESS CLASS LOUNGE

Even if you are not travelling business class, often you can pay to get into a business class lounge. This can at times be cheaper than ordering a meal in a restaurant, as in the lounge food, Internet, newspapers, etc is included!

They say you shouldn't take food out of the lounge, but often slipping a bag of peanuts or crisps into your pocket is a good idea. This comes in really handy when you are delayed on a plane or in a city. At least you have something to fill your stomach.

When applying for a credit card, get one that includes business class lounge access. American Express and Diners Club cards allow free access to priority lounges around the world at no extra cost. Also, if you are a frequent flyer, link

your credit card to your miles program. This enables you to collect air miles every time you use the card. A 'Priority Club' card can be applied for online with an annual membership fee, making it a cost effective alternative for Business Class Lounge access internationally if you are a frequent flyer.

Check with the airlines, some offer a chauffeur pick up and drop off service when booking business class. They don't tell you about this unless you ask! This can save you quite a chunk on taxi fares.

Parking at airports is expensive, especially if you are gone for a longer period. It is far better to arrange with a friend to drop you at the airport, or use a good door-to-door shuttle service, or taxi.

ON THE PLANE

In business class they love giving you a hot towel on arrival. It feels good, but it dries out your skin. Not so nice when you have a 10 hour flight ahead of you. Always travel in comfortable clothes on long haul flights. Only in first class do they offer you pyjamas. In business it's rare, but they will hang up your clothes if you change into something more comfortable on your own. This means you arrive with crease-free clothes after a long haul flight. In economy you will have to pack your clothes in the baggage compartment above your head. Believe me, a soft tracksuit pants and warm top makes the trip so much more comfortable. To this day I can never understand the fashion show that takes place amongst passengers boarding a long haul flight. By all means wear the tight jeans and funky top - but then be prepared to suffer the discomfort of travelling in them!

Airlines used to give you wet wipes - few do nowadays. Carry some with you to wipe any unclean surfaces. All international flights include food, but many of the local low cost airlines don't. Their food prices tend to be quite pricey. So why not pack your own lunch or buy a cheaper pre-made lunch in the airport?

Yes on many flights the drinks are free! But they affect you about two and three times as quickly in the air, and they dehydrate you too. There is nothing worse than arriving in a foreign land with jet lag, and a hangover!

Airlines are no longer what they used to be. Realise this now. If the onboard entertainment system at your seat doesn't work, you will have to twiddle your thumbs for the whole flight. It's happening more and more! Have a spare book or movie on your laptop just in case.

Do you have trouble sleeping on a plane? Check with your local doctor before you fly for a good sleeping tablet - this may help. Avoid the seats closest to the toilets - these can be a nuisance, and it gets busy in that area. Bulkhead seats up front tend to have mothers and babies seated in them. This is always good to

know if you don't want screaming babies near you. Although emergency exit seats may have more legroom, many don't recline... there's always a catch!

Yes you have heard the emergency drill before! Nevertheless orientate yourself on the plane and know how many seats away the emergency exit is. Read that safety card - all planes are different. You never know!

Charge your laptop before you fly and keep your charger on you in your hand luggage. In business and first class you can plug the charger into a power port. However, most economy seats don't have this option. Also carry your universal adapter with you in case the plugs differ on the plane.

If earplugs don't work, use the headphones supplied on long haul flights, they tend to work. Especially if you don't want the person next to you to disturb you - it's a good sign that you are otherwise occupied! What happens if your ears don't pop when the plane prepares to land? Holding your nose doesn't work, what now? Rumour has it that if you ask for two plastic cups and two warm cloths, you wrap the cloths around the cups and then hold the cups over your ears - this causes a vacuum and relieves the pain. Good to know.

If you are on a long haul flight and going into a new time zone, adjust your watch as you start the flight, and follow that time pattern straight away. It helps your body adjust sooner. Carry a moisturiser with you. Flying, coupled with the air conditioning on the plane dries your skin, and especially your lips. Thus also carry a lip balm with you.

On arrival in a foreign airport, NEVER take the first taxi you see. You could get ripped off. Rather go to the information kiosk first and find out what fares are supposed to be. Also check that it is a metered taxi. It's often very easy and much cheaper to catch a bus or train from an airport. At your hotel, always ask the concierge what the normal fares are so that you don't get ripped off.



AT THE DESTINATION

HOTELS

Check the fire escape plan and actually walk it when you get to the hotel. Better to do it when you are awake and fresh than when it's an emergency. At least then you know the route.

Do you have trouble sleeping when you get to the hotel? It could be because of the time change, or various other reasons. Firstly, try exercise before you go to bed, and don't eat just before going to sleep. If all else fails, use those sleeping tablets your doctor prescribed.

The air conditioner is drying the air and you forgot your moisturiser, what now? Sprinkle some water on the carpet in the areas you won't be walking if you need to get up at night. The next morning the carpet will be dry, but the air and your skin far more moist.

Alcoholic drinks in the bar fridge are usually over-priced. You are better off buying them at a local store and drinking those in your room. I have been caught once to often, thinking that the bottle of mineral water next to my bed is complimentary. Only afterwards do I realise you need to pay for it. Some hotels even put a bottle in the bathroom. Make sure you check that it's free!

Pack a few spare plastic bags (they take up no space) for dirty washing, liquids etc. If you forget, the laundry bag in your hotel room works well.

Some hotels don't offer free Internet and it's a rip off. Be prepared and have a 3G card with you. Skype is pretty international and you can use them to access the Internet pretty much everywhere. However, find out before you book the hotel if they have free Wi Fi. Also, if they do, get the password when you check-in. This saves you phoning back down to the reception desk, or even walking down again. Also check whether you can receive it in the room, or whether it's only available in the lobby. Even if they don't have free Internet - sometimes you can go online for free in the business centre.

Some hotels actually charge you for an Ethernet cable in your room. This takes up no space - keep one in your hand baggage if you are an Internet junkie!

Ask the receptionist for a postcard, or business card from the hotel. Often people completely forget the name and address of where they are staying. If you have their details on you, it makes life a lot easier. Also, in a foreign country you may pronounce the area where the hotel is situated in a strange dialect to the taxi driver, and he may completely misunderstand you. So it's always useful to be able to show the person the address.

Check the meal times for the restaurants. Often people assume a restaurant is open until a certain time, only to find out that it is already closed. The same applies to the fitness centre and indoor pool if they have one.

PHONES

Turn off roaming on your fancy cell/smart phone & 3G devices. This stops unexpected high costly charges when using web browsing, email and data services in a foreign country.

FOREX

Use credit cards to pay for items. When converting your home currency in a foreign land, you often get ripped off at very bad exchange rates. By doing everything through your credit card, your bank usually gives you a far better rate back home.

If you are going to draw cash at an ATM in a foreign country, make sure the ATM is part of bank that is open at the time. Imagine using a 'lone' ATM and it eat your card. It will be a nightmare to get your card back. Should this happen at an ATM at a bank, which is open, at least you can go inside and get your card back straight away.

EXPENSES

Have a separate pocket in your suitcase, or even a separate wallet for all receipts and papers relating to purchases and expenses. When you get back home it's a nightmare searching for all the slips you need to claim for. By having one storage space, or wallet from day one, everything is in one place when you get home.

CAR HIRE

Many car hire firms have 'preferred' cards. This enables you to pre-book and collect your car immediately without standing in a queue. Some companies offer courtesy upgrades on these cards. This is ideal for frequent fliers.

The airport kiosks often charge an airport surcharge, thus tend to be more expensive than the offices away from the airport. Often it's cheaper to catch a tube/train from the airport to the next nearest car rental office and hire from there. This also gives you the opportunity to 'orientate' yourself in the new city.

ALWAYS walk around the vehicle before signing for it and check that any scratches and dents have been recorded on the rental agreement. If you don't

do this, you will be charged for them on returning the car.

If you receive a traffic fine, or similar while on holiday, most car hire firms will charge you an extra administration fee for forwarding it to you. Make sure you know what the cost involved are.

PASSPORTS/IMMIGRATION/CUSTOMS & SECURITY

Security is and always will be a pain in the rear end. Bottom line - they are there for your safety. Learn to put up with it and don't be a smart arse. You can get into trouble.

Remove your belt, shoes, small change and laptop before your get to the security scanner! It's rude to do this there and then and make everyone wait. This is a huge problem in airports. Don't start searching through your pockets once you get there - have everything ready! Respect other travellers!

Many airports have a fast track with an eye retinal scanner. You need to sign up for these. It makes life much easier and gets you through immigration much faster.

GENERAL

Try learning a few basic words of a foreign language. You will be amazed at how people open up to you. It could also help you out of a sticky situation. If you need a toilet desperately and don't know what the word is in that language... need I say more?

Security for valuables. Yes most hotels rooms have a digital safe, but they are easy to break into. Many hotels offer special safes at the reception, these are usually more secure. However, a moneybag under your clothes is a good idea, or alternatively hide extra notes in your socks or in your shoe. Far safer than carrying a wallet in your back pocket.

Yes we all have GPS on our phones, but what happens if the battery dies or there is no reception? Always carry a small spare fold-up map with you.

NEVER travel anywhere with brand new shoes! There is nothing worse than having blisters in a foreign place and not being able to enjoy the sights! Use worn in shoes always!



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About the author:



Wolfgang Riebe is a unique international keynote speaker on strategic magic who has inspired millions of people worldwide. He is a best-selling author with appearances in over 150 countries - from Hollywood to Singapore. Star of numerous television shows and many of his own prime time TV series, coupled with 27 years experience in the speaking, service and entertainment industry, make him a world leader in his field.

In 2012 the National Speakers Association (NSA) awarded Wolfgang the CSP (Certified Speaking Professional) designation, which is the highest award given to any professional speaker in the speaking world. This designation is currently only held by less than 800 professional speakers globally.

“Greatness in a Speaker, is defined by passion, humility, sincerity and personal experience, coupled with his ability to capture, communicate and entertain his audience, while still sharing practical, sustainable and immediately implementable life skills which have a positive effect on all present.” Wolfgang Riebe

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