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Time-saving Tips for Travelers

June 18, 2008 by [expresstravel](#)

Before I began this blog, I was warned that it can be difficult to keep up regular blog posts. I think “they” were right! It’s not the writing so much that’s hard, it’s finding the time to do it. That’s something I’ll have to continue to work on. In the meantime, though, it did give me an idea for a post: time saving tips for traveling! Below are a few time-savers that have worked for me. I’d love to hear your tips and tricks, so leave a comment or email me with ideas!

- Start putting clothes aside that you want to pack a few days or even a week in advance. I’ve started doing this after each load of laundry when I have an upcoming trip. Now, instead of spending an hour or more the night before the trip trying to figure out what I want to pack, it takes me about 20 minutes to make sure I have everything, add last minute items, and throw it all in a suitcase.
- Make a list of all the toiletries that you typically take with you (contact lense case, prescription drugs, hair brush, etc.). Refer to the list as you’re packing and it will go a lot faster (and you won’t forget anything!). Better yet, keep duplicates of the items in a travel case that you never unpack. I do this for some inexpensive items like toothpaste and shampoo; my husband keeps all our electronics (chargers, batteries, connectors, etc.) organized in baggies inside a carry-on that we always take with us.
- If you have house or pet sitters that don’t have their own key, use a coded key safe like realtors use. The sitter can let themselves in (don’t forget to give them the code, of course!), and you don’t have to worry about getting the key to the sitter before the trip.
- If you’re like me, the admirable desire to leave a clean house behind was engrained in you as a child (just like the admonition to always wear clean underwear). Well, I say “*Fuhgeddaboutit!*” I used to spend hours the week before a trip making the house perfect. Now I just clean the rooms that the pet sitter will use, and leave the rest as is if I don’t have time. (I still make sure I have clean underwear, but that’s a lot less time-consuming!)
- Get your boarding pass on the airline’s website the day before you leave. Not only does this save time at the airport (although you’ll still have to check your luggage at the counter), it may result in a better seat. [Southwest Airlines](#), for example, issues boarding passes that indicate your place in the boarding line. Since you can pick your own seat on Southwest, the closer you are to the front of the line, the better chance you have of getting a desirable bulkhead, exit row or aisle seat.
- Speaking of flying, you can save time by booking a non-stop flight. It sounds obvious, but since non-stop flights typically cost more, it’s an option you may overlook. Consider that I just did a search for flights from LAX to New York and the

non-stop option was only \$29 more and arrived an hour and a half sooner than the next closest fare with one stop. The question is, how much is your time worth?

- Save time on your trip by pre-booking as much as possible before the trip - car rentals, tours, hotels (if you'll be staying in more than one place), etc. Although this can still take quite of a bit of time up front, it keeps you from spending your vacation time standing in lines or on the phone trying to make arrangements. When we traveled to Europe in 2002, I booked all but one hotel online. Back then, it was probably harder to make email reservations than it is today. Although this required us to decide in advance how long we would spend in each location, we left some flexibility in at the beginning of the trip, which allowed us to make wonderful diversions to [Brugge](#) and [Amsterdam](#).

What time-saving travel tips do you have?

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2 Responses to “Time-saving Tips for Travelers”



1. on July 11, 2008 at 9:16 pm1 [wendy pearson](#)

my recent 24+ hour travel excursion to/fro the EU reminded me of this blog. Here is one tip for you... BRING with you to the airport and keep close at hand all the info on your itinerary including that wierd record locator number and the phone number for your airlines customer service dept. who you can call 24X7. These days airports lack any humans to help you when there are problems and your best bet for quick service is to pick up the phone as soon as your flight gets jacked up rather than try to wait in the long frustrating lines.



2. on August 28, 2008 at 12:07 am2 [best travel](#)

well this is useful... (at least for me)

very thanks

[best travel](#)

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...of a thousand miles starts from beneath your feet.." -- Lao-Tzu

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