

## Len Kaine President

A Charity Making it a Better World
P.O. Box 711 Coronado, CA 92178-0711 USA

www.goldenrulesociety.org lenkaine@grsmail.com

(619) 437 - 4422

# "Captain's Travel Tips" ©

Dear Friends of the Golden Rule Society,

# **Never** Pay Retail for Travel Again!

Your decision to order the "Captain's Travel Tips" **(CTT)** is going to be one of the smartest decisions you've ever made.

While reading the CTT and considering the bonus opportunities, you're going to realize that the information you've got in your hands is worth thousands of dollars to you. And, you'll wonder why I'm sharing all these Travel Tips and opportunities with you.

The reason is simple. I was an Airline Pilot for 30 years. By helping you, I help the Travel Industry. By helping you, I help the Advertising Industry. By helping you, I help the businesses that want to market their products and services. The net proceeds go to charity. Everybody wins. I like that. Don't you?

The CTT is a dynamic, living and growing thing. Times change. Rules change. What was OK today may not be OK tomorrow. I don't have the market cornered on good ideas. Please send good or bad experiences along with your travel tips and funny stories. We'll give you name credit if we use your story. Posterity is yours! Please email lenkaine@gmail.com Subject: Travel Tips.

First let me stress one thing. When you travel, "take your common sense with you"...Safety first, last and always. Who cares if you save some money but get hurt along the way? Don't drop your guard. Keep your wits about you.

I want to personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to prove the value of the CTT and help you become a Savvy Traveler.

Again, I'll also show how you'll never have to pay retail for travel again.

GBY & Yours now and always,

Len Kaine 💩

Captain Len Kaine, President
Nobel Peace Prize Nominations 2019, 2018, 2017, 2014 & 2003
Help Make it a Better World.
<a href="http://www.goldenrulesociety.org">http://www.goldenrulesociety.org</a>

# **Personal Safety Tips**

- Leave your valuables at home; locked in a secure place. Don't try to impress people with your wealth while traveling. Let them impress you.
- Don't leave your luggage unattended. Or anything else you value.
- Use ATM machines for the money you'll need that day. Don't carry more
  than you can afford to lose. As a buddy of mine said when going to
  Las Vegas, "I hope I break even, because I really need the money".
  Carry traveler's checks if you like but keep the receipts in a separate
  place. The ATMs are the best way to get the daily cash you need.
  Before leaving the good old USA purchase enough of the cash at your
  departure airport to get you going when you arrive at your destination.
- We met a couple who were driving around looking for an American Express office to get Dollars converted to Euros. They didn't have a debit card from their checking account back home. Tough way to travel.
- By the way, it's much wiser to take the airport bus downtown. From there you can catch a cab to your hotel. Be sure the cabbie turns on the meter.
- If not you're in for an expensive ride...as short as it might be.
- Nowadays... Download one or both of these sites to your Smart Phone.
   Lyft @ <a href="https://www.lyft.com/">https://www.lyft.com/</a> or Uber @
   https://auth.uber.com/login/?uber client name=riderSignUp&
- Your choice.
- Use the hotel's safety deposit box or the safe in the room. Don't hide valuables in your room. The bad guys know where to look.
- Lock <u>all</u> your doors. Use the security lock and the chain. The Desk Clerk may give someone the wrong key. You can't believe how many rooms I've walked into that were occupied. At the very least, it's embarrassing. Don't open the door unless you're sure who it is. Use the peephole.
- Call the desk to verify that it's really the "custodian wanting to check the room". Ask him to slip his ID under the door. Put your room key in the same spot every time. I got over being surprised to find a room key left in the outside lock when I walked down the hall to my room. I would knock on the door, open it slightly, drop the key inside and close the door.

- When leaving the hotel give your room key to the desk clerk. I carry a
  matchbook cover with the hotel's name, address and phone number. It's
  especially handy in foreign cities if you need to take a cab back to the
  hotel, and you don't speak the language. I guess that includes some of
  the big cities in the USA as well.
- Always wear an ankle or a waist style money belt. I know of a guy that got mugged (beaten and robbed) who now has an extra wallet for one days activities...a little money, expired credit cards, an old driver's license and a family picture (wife and kids type). Is he paranoid? Save your judgment. If it keeps you from getting hurt, it's worth every minute you spent putting one together. No valuables in your fanny pack please.
- Carry your purse or shoulder bag in front of you. Keep it closed.
- Please keep an eye on the kids. Give them a hotel matchbook cover with address and phone number. Select a meeting place in case you get separated.
- Also, carry your cellular phone and be sure the kids have the number written on the matchbook. If you get lost, they should contact a park employee or a hotel desk clerk or a responsible adult like a policeman who'll call you and tell you where they are.
- Out in the sun? Wear a hat, sunglasses and a sunscreen protection with a minimum SPF of 15. More vacations and travel have been ruined by sunburns than any other factor. It's true.

# **Vehicle Safety Tips**

 Be sure your car is in good working order <u>before</u> leaving on a trip. Check it out. Know how your rental car works before leaving the lot. A guy had an accident less than a block from the rental agency while trying to adjust the mirrors. *Dumb*! Carry or rent a cell phone. It's a lifesaver.

If you don't have GPS on your cell phone, always ask for a GPS (Global Positioning System) in your rental car, especially in a foreign country. Another life saver. Years ago, we got lost leaving Paris, even though we had explicit directions from Michelin. One detour did us in. Had to ask directions 5 times. The GPS book was 88 pages in French. I spent more than an hour the next day learning to use the GPS while in the hotel parking lot. It was well worth the time and effort.

I think it may have saved our marriage. he-he! Now we have GPS on our cell phones... Problem solved.

There are even free navigation apps for the phones with offline data (no cellular connection or WiFi is needed in a foreign country to get navigation guidance).

- If you don't have a GPS car or GPS on your cell phone, know how to get to your destination before you leave. Have a map.
- If you get lost (and who hasn't?) go to a gas station or a well-lighted public place to ask for directions.
- o Keep doors locked and windows up, while driving and parked.
- Don't hitchhike or pick up hitchhikers. You're asking for trouble.
   Just don't do it.
- Lock valuables out of sight in the trunk or glove compartment.
- Never leave the motor running and the car unattended. Here are sad words when the car's gone..."But officer, I just left if for a minute".
- Park in well lighted areas. Check inside the car before getting in.
   Have your keys in your hand when approaching your car.
- If someone bothers you, lock your doors, blow the horn, set and sound your alarm, flash your lights, scream at them and drive away if you can.
- If someone forces their way into your car...drive into a pole, a fence or a parked car. Preferably near a busy intersection. Stay close to people.
- o What to do if ???
- Someone is yelling and honking or pointing at your car as if some-
- o thing is wrong with it and they want you to pull over.
- o Someone is motioning you to stop and lend assistance.
- Someone is flashing headlights at your car.
- Someone has bumped your car from behind.
- You're being followed.
- DO NOT PULL OVER OR STOP. DRIVE DIRECTLY TO THE NEAREST GAS STATION OR WELL-LIGHTED PUBLIC AREA AND CALL THE POLICE (911).
- Always use seat belts. Buckle up for safety. Carry a First Aid Kit.

- NEVER Text while driving. Stop in a safe place if you must Text!
- o Don't Drink and Drive. Enough said. Carry an emergency road kit.

## **TRAVEL TIPS**

(How to save a ton of money, time and frustration)

Here's a gift and a way to get more people to support your organization.

Just ask your members and prospects...

Would you like to have a 'Free' Golden Rule Society Travel Account?

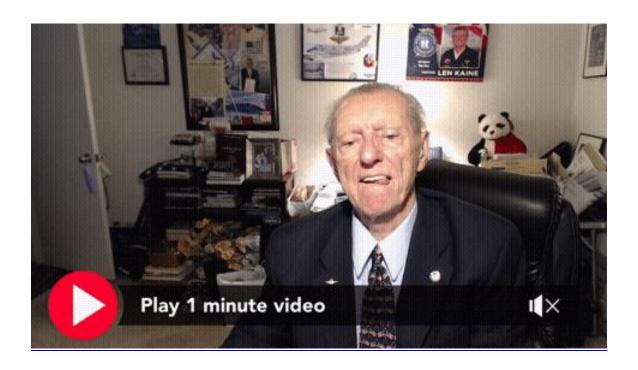
Now you can. It's simple... "Stop and Look...before You Book"!

Arrange your personal, charitable or business travel plans online to save \$\$\$.

Book Hotels, Resorts, Weekly Stays, Car Rental, Cruises, Entertainment, Airfare, Travelers Insurance and SAVE your Money 24/7!

First, watch my short video message below by Clicking:

https://view.bbsv2.net/bbext/?p=land&id=D6857D9A7B151A48E0530100007FBCB4&vid=4272a66f-7ec6-4341-9eca-f768b2442844



Then, under my picture, Click <a href="https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/">https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/</a>
To sign up for your Free Travel Program and Welcome Aboard.

Now, Your Free Signup is as easy as 1, 2, 3, for a lifetime of Savings!

- 1 Enter your name, email and a password.
- 2 Click the Orange bar to learn how to start saving money.
- 3 Click the White Banner links and start booking and saving.

I'm sure you'll appreciate our **Golden Rule Society's** efforts in helping every traveler in every country.

And, it benefits you and all non-profit and even for-profit organizations... Including their members, supporters, customers, donors and prospects.

"Look Before You Book"... Just makes good sense!

GBY & Yours now and always,

Len Kaine 💩

Nobel Peace Prize Nominations 2019, 2018, 2017, 2014 & 2003 Help Make it a Better World.

PS Enjoy Your Free Travel Discounts. Please Share with all members, plus... family, friends, neighbors, churches and charities. Do it Now!

# **Travel Tips Continued**

Before you go, call your Credit Card Companies and tell them your travel dates and locations. Or else, when you get to your foreign country there may be a problem with the acceptance of your credit cards. If you'll be renting a car using a credit card, be sure the credit card provides coverage for accidents.

One couple used an American Express Card which was a Costco Rebate car and did not include the Car Rental Loss/Damage Insurance. It turned out to be an expensive oversight.

Always use a Travel Agent. Become an "outside the office travel agent" and put 50% of the commission in your pocket. One couple saved \$984 during a 5 day Hawaii vacation. Reconfirm international reservations. Ask any local Travel Agency owners to get more info. It takes time and training and may or may not be worth the trouble. It's your call.

Try not to buy airline tickets on weekends. Many airlines test airfare hikes by raising prices on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays. If the other airlines don't match the fare increase, their prices go back down on Monday.

You can earn an extra income just for telling your family, friends and neighbors how to save money on their travel.

Do you always set the parking brake on your car? Brake cables, levers and adjusting mechanisms will bind, stick and rust in place if you don't set the brake every time you park. In many cars, the parking brake is part of the self-adjusting mechanism for the rear brakes. Use it or lose it.

Speaking of cars... Get detailed custom rates from insurers in your state. Pick the best deal for you and yours.

\*\*\* Did you hear about the Airline Pilot who was awakened by a lady banging on his hotel room door at 2 o'clock in the morning and pleading with him to open the door? He said "She was so upset; I finally had to get up and let her OUT". ③ Just kidding.

Direct flights are not necessarily non-stop. You may have one or more stops before getting to your destination. Normally you don't change aircraft. If you do, it's a connecting flight with a change of flight #. I can't count the number of people who get upset when we'd stop at a city en-route to the destination. Their comment is almost always the same. "They told me this was a direct flight." Now you know a non-stop is a non-stop.

Are you booking an "unaccompanied minor" on a connecting flight? Stay away from the last flight of the day. If there's a cancellation for any reason, the child is going to be alone in a hotel in a strange city. Send them early with back-up flights if possible.

Have you had a family emergency, a death or a critical illness? Be sure to mention it to your Travel Agent or the Airline. Bereavement fares are discounted up to 50%. And in some cases you can get discounts for a critical illness. Always ask.

Do you know the best seats on an aircraft are the ones by the emergency exits? (I know. First class is better.) If you're physically able to handle the requirements, ask for the emergency exit row. Why? More leg room. And if there's an emergency, you don't have to look for the exit. You're there. Seats in front of emergency rows don't recline. Seats in front of some bulkheads may not recline. Seats in back of bulkheads usually have more legroom. Pay attention to the Flight Attendants during the safety briefing. Know where the emergency exits are located. When booking your flights, ask the airline for guidance on what seats you'd like and the ones you want to avoid... Especially if you have some physical concerns.

\*\*\* Do you know life's greatest challenge? It's being the successful person you were meant to be. To succeed in life:

Get started - Go for it. Give it all you've got. Never quit.

There's usually more vibration and motion in the rear of an aircraft.

Always carry earplugs. There's more noise by the engines, especially turbo props.

Lock the lavatory door on airplanes, buses and trains. Ladies and <u>Gentlemen</u>, please be seated. Roll up you pant legs to keep your clothes from absorbing the liquids from people who are not neat. I spend my life cleaning airplane lavatories. I don't want the person going in after me to think I'm a slob. So I clean the lavatories.

Want to help your family, friends, church charities and favorite businesses, save up to 70% on hotels in over 150 cities? Again, tell them to visit <a href="https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/">https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/</a> for the best deals on travel and they'll take their pick. The Free program through the GRS is the best place to start. And Again, it's Free with No Strings Attached.

If using a travel agent or airline, ask for the cheapest and restricted fare. If it's too restrictive, you can always compromise on terms. Remember to ask for your Senior Citizen or Veteran Discount or any other discount you know you're entitled to receive. If you don't ask for it, they won't offer it.

On planes, trains and buses...don't be a mule with your luggage. Rent a dolly or use a porter/skycap. Travel light just in case you have to carry your bags.

\*\*\* A group of us got on a train in Florence, Italy. We gave a bunch of Italian businessmen a hard time because they were in our assigned seats. They didn't speak English and after a whole lot of gestures and sign language, they moved. The Conductor came by and told us we were in the right seats but on the wrong train. How humiliating!

If you like train travel, it's fun. Get a BritRail or EurRail Pass before you leave. (Or whatever country you're going to visit) Always get First Class train tickets. Don't <u>ever</u> get on a train without a ticket. Severe penalties. You can't plead ignorance. Take bottled water, snacks, sandwiches and liquid refreshments. Some trains have dining cars. Nice but often expensive.

Here's how a Las Vegas couple flew round trip to London for \$200. They knew a big convention was being held in Vegas. They bought 2 round trip tickets to Los Angeles for \$100 each. When the convention ended, they went to the airport. They hung out at the gate of the flight to Los Angeles, which they knew was over-sold. They told the agent they'd stand by and take the Denied Boarding Compensation, which were 2 round trip tickets anywhere in that airline's system. They chose London. They gambled and won. They had time on their hands. Rules change. But, if you have time to spare, ask the agent about Denied Boarding Compensation on over-sold flights. This makes your copy of The Captain's Travel Tips very valuable to you. The Airline will tell you their "offer". They're all different.

Ever been in a car or a taxi where the driver was going too fast or just being dangerous? Tell them to slow down and drive safely because you're so scared you're going to throw up in the car. Works every time.

If you can't find discounted hotel offers and need a hotel room, call the hotel directly not the 1-800 reservation number. You'll usually get a better rate. Never accept the first rate quoted. Ask for any special discounts. Tell them you'd like to stay there, but you need a better rate. Won't work every time but often enough to save you money.

Want an aisle or window seat on the plane but all they've got are center seats? Ask the agent for a center seat between people with the same last name. It's usually a husband and wife. When you get there, usually one will move so they can sit together. And, you get an aisle or window seat.

\*\*\* Late one night a fellow getting on board the plane tripped and fell headfirst into the galley area. I suggested he remove his sunglasses at night. He looked at me and announced, "No way, man. When you're cool, you're always cool"!

Got a long plane ride ahead? Consider wearing a jogging/warm-up suit with comfortable walking shoes. (And we used to call them sneakers). Feet swell during long flights.

Savvy travelers carry an air pillow to keep their head erect while sleeping. They wear "comfy feet" (socks with food pads), a sleep mask and ear plugs. They arrive refreshed.

You become dehydrated at high altitudes so drink extra water. Stay away from too much alcohol and caffeine. Makes you feel bad.

Here's one - A young boy was making life miserable for his parents while touring an aerospace museum. Seems the label on his new underwear was scratching him and driving him crazy. I told them to turn his underwear inside out. He was relieved, and they all enjoyed the tour.

Here's one. I heard of a couple that travels with old underwear. They throw away their underwear each day. No laundry problems and they make room for purchases. Silly? It works for them.

\*\*\* You can have all the happiness and success in this life whenever you use your God given capabilities to their greatest extent... by learning, doing, loving and enjoying.

Get your passport now, before you need it. They're good for 10 years. Passport renewals are usually done via snail mail. Want to save yourself a lot of time and frustration? Google **passport renewal**. There are a number of companies that will help you for a fee. Take your pick.

Download and print the forms and instructions. You will need to send them two passport photos. Or you can fight the lines and get an application at your Post Office, Courthouse or County Administration Building. You'll need proof of citizenship and a picture ID. It may take 4 to 6 weeks to get your passport. You can get one via express mail a lot quicker or you can get one in one day if you can prove your trip is imminent and go to the U. S. Passport Office located in major cities. Will you need a Visa? Most countries don't require a Visa. China and some Middle-East countries do require them. Check with your local Travel Agent or call the Country's Embassy in Washington, DC to find if one is required.

Need an International Drivers License? Not really. They're not required. But if it makes you more comfortable to have one, get one. There may be some country I don't know about that requires one. If you travel to exotic places and will be driving about, it might be a good idea. It's your choice.

One of the best resources you'll have is your hotel's concierge. If you need anything, from directions to tickets to shopping, just ask the concierge. They're usually very nice people.

By the way, make and carry a copy of your passport. Keep it separate. Guard your passport. It can be worth over \$1,000 on the black market. We make copies of everything in our wallets, front and back of every credit card, license, IDs, etc, et al. If you lose your wallet, you'll have the phone numbers and card numbers to notify the credit card companies ASAP. By the way, don't carry your Social Security Card.

How to get a hotel room in a foreign country when they're all full? Don't go calling and running around from hotel to hotel. You'll go crazy and end up in an argument with your spouse. Go to one that's full. Pick a nice one. Tell them you need a room and if the Desk Clerk won't call and find you a room in another hotel, you'll just have to spend the night in their lobby. Believe me; the Desk Clerk will call his many friends and contacts in their own language to find you a room. They'll also call a taxicab to take you there. I've been told that it works every time.

If you want to connect to private owners of exclusive vacation homes instead of using hotels Google Vacation Homes.

\*\*\* A new Flight Attendant overdid her make-up for her first flight. She was told by a boarding passenger she looked like Dracula's daughter. She came into the Flight Station in tears. Our old timer Flight Engineer comforted her by saying, "That guy's crazy to say that to you... why you might have turned him into a <u>frog</u>". She went straight to the lavatory to wash off the make-up and came out looking very much the attractive young California lady that she was.

Many people are against renting a car in a foreign country. They say you'll have more fun taking trains, buses, subways and cabs. The wives say, "We'll drive to wonderful spots". The husband usually drives and it can be frustrating and scary. You'll probably rent one anyway. Enjoy but remember the GPS mentioned earlier.

Pack light. The people in one city don't know you wore the same outfit yesterday in a different city. They really don't care.

Sound advice from an old friend..."Lay out all the clothes you plan on taking. Layout all the money you think you'll need. Then take half the clothes and twice the money". Sound advice,

Pack an extra nylon travel bag in your luggage. Use it to bring back the gifts and souvenirs for your family and friends.

Take some large safety pins or clips for your hotel room drapes. Sometimes they don't close all the way. It's tough to sleep when the sun comes shining in your eyes. Don't forget your ear plugs and sleep mask.

I know of some frequent travelers (called Road Warriors) that carry these items in their luggage: A door knob alarm, a smoke hood (to provide enough breathing time to get out of a smoke filled hotel), swim goggles to keep smoke from burning their eyes if they don't have a smoke hood.

\*\*\* The greatest freedom is to choose your own attitude in any situation... to choose your own way. Make it positive and good. Relax and have fun.

Always have something to read or crossword puzzles or something else to do during the inevitable delays. It makes no sense to get upset.

Sleep on the side of the bed away from the phone in your hotel room. It's usually the best part of the mattress.

Going to take a taxi from the airport to the city? Click <a href="https://www.lyft.com/">https://www.lyft.com/</a>
 Or Uber <a href="https://auth.uber.com/login/?uber\_client\_name=riderSignUp">https://auth.uber.com/login/?uber\_client\_name=riderSignUp</a>

Ask for a local map from one of the car rental companies before choosing. Find your destination on the map so that you have a good idea of the route. It may keep the driver from taking you on a circuitous tour to pump up the fare. I've seen people pay over \$50 more than they had to. This one suggestion just saved you more than enough to pay for the Captain's Travel Tips.

Going to a restaurant? Always have one person in your group check that the table is OK. If it is, then the rest of the party can proceed to the table. If the table's not acceptable, the group doesn't go through the uncomfortable march around the restaurant. You're less likely to get a bad table if the person taking you there knows you're a Savvy Traveler. No need to sit by the kitchen door if you don't have to.

This same technique is especially good for foreign hotels. Always ask the desk clerk, "May I please see the room"? Leave the bags with your spouse in the lobby. Watch the desk clerk as he changes keys to give you a good room leaving the rookie traveler to sleep by the noisy elevator, ice machine or above the Disco. This isn't a big problem in the USA, but it's wise to ask for a different room if it does not meet your expectations. I would change rooms quite often because I truly believe my passengers deserved a well-rested Captain. I'm sure you agree.

\*\*\* This happened years ago on a propeller aircraft a woman wanted to wave good-bye to her friends from the plane. She opened the emergency exit window. She though it would be OK. It takes all kinds.

Being a non-smoker, I don't think anyone should smoke. However, some people think it's OK to smoke in the aircraft lavatories, even though it's against Federal Air Regulations. An Air Canada DC-9 was destroyed by a fire that was started by a smoker. Lives were lost. It's serious. No smoking. The lives you save may be yours and mine.

On the same subject of smoke, next time you're seated in your plane, look at the panel above your head. It's where the emergency oxygen masks are stored. Notice a small pinhole in the panel. If you shoved a straightened paper clip or a bobby pin or any thin object into that hole, you'd release the panel lock and the oxygen masks would drop down. It's ironic and sad to know that people have died from smoke inhalation while life-sustaining oxygen was 12 inches from their heads. This may not work on older aircraft.

Did you ever get a call from a telemarketer or a post card from some company saying you won a free trip, cruise or travel stay? We all have. Many offerings are associated with the sale of "Time Share Properties". But some are outright scams that want your reservation fees and you'll never see your tickets. If it sounds too good to be true, that's usually the case. "Caveat emptor" means buyer beware. Deal only with reputable travel agencies. Ask for references and background. Get it in writing. Put it on your credit card. If it's a scam, you can "charge back" through your bank and get your money back. There are some unscrupulous people out there. Please be careful. Don't be rushed into anything. Follow your instincts. Hang up if you feel pressured. Don't worry about hurting their feelings. The bad guys only want your hard-earned money.

Heard about the 2 for 1 deal? Here's how it works. You pay for 1 ticket, usually the highest price, and short term coach fare. Let's say it's a \$1,000 ticket and you get the second ticket free. Effectively, each ticket is \$500.

OK so far. However, planning ahead using: <a href="https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/">https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/</a>, you might have paid only \$400 for each ticket. As you parents told you, there's no such thing as a free lunch. Yes, I know there are promotional offerings that are great deals. Be careful, that's all.

Cut off the old destination baggage tags. Look at your luggage destination tags when the Skycap or Porter takes your bags. Be sure they're tagged to your destination. Almost everyone overlooks this simple precaution. It happened to me in Copenhagen. We were heading for San Diego. Our bags went to Seattle. Luckily we got our luggage back. It was 2 weeks later in Los Angeles and only because of my airline connections. Simple you say. It's worth the price of this publication many times over. And, don't forget to tip the Skycap.

\*\*\* A rookie female Flight Attendant spilled water in the lap of a first class passenger. She grabbed a napkin and, with many apologies, wiped up the water from his lower lap. You get the picture. When finished, he asked for his glass of water. When she brought it, he slowly poured it on his lap...hoping for another rubdown I'm sure. She was so embarrassed; she wanted to spend the rest of the trip in the Flight Station.

She eventually laughed at herself.

Don't trust the dinky locks that come with your luggage. They can be opened with just about any little key. A screwdriver can pop the latch- locks. Get a short steel cable with a stout mini-lock to hold zippered bags closed. Luggage strap locks can be wrapped around clamshell bags to keep an honest person honest. Airlines won't let you do this because your checked luggage has to be unlocked for inspection.

It's an old story but I was told a passenger looked out the window and saw a baggage handler rummaging through his bag while at the gate.

Be there to meet your bags at Baggage Claim. Don't let someone walk away with your luggage while you're having a cocktail or a cigarette.

Strangers may want to carry your bags. You may not see them again.

No need to make a fashion statement with your luggage? Make sure it's serviceable and sturdy enough to stand the rigors of being tossed about by an 800-pound gorilla. A thief is more likely to steal the fancy luggage (for the goodies inside) than a bland, garden-variety bag.

Mark your bags by putting a distinctive tag or colorful tape on both sides.

Don't put anything valuable in your checked baggage. Put your precious valuables in your carry on bags. That includes your medicines. Get a soft-sided (fit under your seat) carry-on-bag with wheels. Test it before you buy it. You can take a carry-on-bag / hang-up-bag and a purse or a lap-top computer bag. The new rule is... Carry liquids in a see-through plastic bag in your carry-on.. Check with your airline before you leave. Rules keep changing. We saw a lady who had to give up an expensive bottle of perfume she tried to get on board in her carry on luggage.

\*\*\* My wife and I went on a vacation to the East Coast. She packed very carefully, as she always does. Everything went well until we got to the airport. She asked a simple question. "Where's my hang-up bag?" Oops! I thought she put it in the car. It's a good thing she's a good sport.

Don't count on those dinky little nametags to survive the handling they receive. I used to pick up those cute little tags on my aircraft walk around inspections on a daily basis. Put your nametag in plastic and tape it to the bag. Put your nametag inside the bag as well.

Some savvy travelers tape their name plus the name and address of their destination hotel. Why? Sometimes the bad guys will copy your home address knowing the house may be empty.

Do you know the biggest reason bags get lost? Yes, some get mis-tagged and some tags get torn off and some get stolen. Most bags miss their connection flights because of inadequate time between flights. The more time between flights, the better the odds of your luggage making the connection. Travel Agents do their best to make close connections for the convenience of their clients. However, any delay, for any reason and you're at your destination without your bags.

Here's an award winning idea. If you're traveling as a family, have each member pack some things in each other's luggage. If one bag gets lost, that person won't be devastated for lack of clothing. This takes more discipline than most folks have. My suggestion is that everyone takes a small, carry-onbag. Put a couple of day's underwear, socks, shirts, etc. And you're valuables, like cameras, jewelry, shaving kit, medicines, etc.

\*\*\* Did you hear about the couple going to Europe from Los Angeles? They were going to rendezvous with 3 other couples in London for a tour of the continent. One "Small" problem. They left their passports and airline tickets at home. (45 minute drive) In the confusion of trying to get someone to bring their passports and tickets to the airport they became separated. What a mess. They missed their flight and luckily were able to get on the same flight the next day, which was overbooked. It's a wild way to start a vacation. I've got a travel checklist for you near the end of this list of Travel Tips. Plus, a last minute Essential Checklist so that this doesn't happen to you.

Want to win a beer? Ask your pals "What is Big Ben"? Bet them they don't know. It's the Bell in the tower, not the <u>Clock or the Tower</u>. Even some Londoners don't know that. However it's been misused for years.

Don't try to bring big, "super valuable" things on an airplane that you can't or won't give as checked luggage. It always causes problems. If it's really that valuable, ship it with good packaging and insurance. Or buy a seat for the article. When someone tells the Flight Attendant that they were allowed to bring it on board the last flight, it's usually "Baloney". And it upsets the other passengers when it delays the flight.

Beware of the solicitor's asking for money in the Terminal. Someone followed a few of them when they got off "duty". They put the money in their pocket, removed their phony priest collars and had a few beers with <u>your</u> money. Donate to your favorite church or charity to be sure you know where your money is going.

When using your cel phone, please be considerate of others. Find a remote, quiet spot to chat with family and friends.

Enjoy your travel and vacation. If you're traveling to a country with a different language, take the time to learn a few key phrases; like Please, Thank you, Where are the toilets, restaurant, etc?. Don't ask for a bathroom if you really want a toilet. The biggest worry of International travelers is "unable to communicate". The universal and best communication symbol is a smile. Spread them around.

\*\*\* Which reminds me, a lot of folks that travel are guilty of the "complain and compare syndrome". Things aren't the same as back home, so don't complain. You'll make no friends and win no points by complaining. However, if you're paying for something and not getting it you should let management know in the nicest way you can. Be fair and firm. You might not like it if a visitor told you his house is much better than yours. It works the same both ways. Courtesy and kindness are always in vogue.

Let's talk money for International travelers. Take a small calculator with you to convert local currency to US dollars. Your Smart Phone probably has one. But also, have a rough idea of the approximate exchange rate to keep from getting ripped off. I've seen people hand currency to a shopkeeper/waiter, etc, and say, "take what you need". Not a wise thing to do.

Again, buy some foreign currency before you leave home. Exchange enough to get you going in the country.

Exchange your money at banks. It's usually the best rate. But ask your concierge or tour guide for the best deals. Speaking of exchanging money, if you're traveling with friends, pool your money and have just one of you get the exchange and then split the foreign currency. You'll save half the charge each of you would otherwise have paid on two or more transactions.

# Use ATMs, traveler's checks and your credit card. It's the safest way.

Look into Public Library membership wherever you're staying. You may be able to use their computers and online browsers to send emails, access the Internet or doing your online banking etc. The membership fee may be a lot less than you might pay to access the Internet from your hotel or an Internet café on a daily basis.

This one is going to save your skin. Shower faucets are all different. Adjust the temperature from the tub faucet and then push the divert button for the shower nozzle. When finished, push the divert button again to get the water coming out of the tub faucet. Too many people have been scalded by trying to turn off the shower and instead get sprayed with hot water. A number of people have taken nasty falls trying to get out of the tub and away from the scalding water.

Please remember this one if nothing else.

\*\*\* Did you hear about the guy on the aircraft who was going to cool his coffee by holding it up to the air vents? He opened the vent too much. The air blew the hot coffee out of the cup and onto his hand, his head and clothes. Some thought it was funny but not to him. Poor guy won't do that again.

Let's talk jet lag. I have no problem going east. Guess I'm lucky because as an example I get right into the routine when I arrive in Europe. Coming back is a different story. It takes a few days to get back to normal. Anyway, try this:

Drink plenty of water and non-alcoholic drinks during flight. Set your watch/clock to the destination time. Your mind has a very strong control of the body's reactions. Tell yourself... it's 2 PM, rather than saying well it's really midnight back home. Exercise during flight. Move around. Stretch your arms and legs. Relax and enjoy the first day there. Get acclimated. Try not to nap. Get on their schedule. Eat light meals. Skip the high fat stuff. Take long walks in parks or scenic areas. Be sure it's a safe area. Ask first. Exercise, play games and enjoy yourself. Good luck.

PS about renting a car. You'll be asked if you want to purchase the Collision Damage Waiver (CDW). Take it. Some premium credit cards may provide coverage for physical damage and loss of use of the rental car. However, there are so many variations, please check with your credit card issuer and your own auto insurance company. They'll give you the info. Be safe, not sorry. Also ask about *primary* coverage for liability.

\*\*\*I had a rental car damaged near a construction site. What a nice feeling to turn in the damaged car and walk away knowing I didn't have to pay a deductible or fill out a ton of paperwork. You'd like that feeling as well.

In some places, bad guys on a motor bike will pull alongside your rental car and poke a small hole in the tire. They follow you until the tire's flat pulling over to help you. And then rob you of your valuables.

Don't pull off to the side of the road to take a nap, as Michael Jordan's father did and was murdered. You ask for trouble. Pull into a busy and well-lighted area like a mall or service station. Or rent a motel room. It's worth your life.

If you book your rental car in advance, you can sometimes save 30% or more on the rental price. Plus you stand a better chance of getting the features you want. And if you're an "outside the office" Travel Agent, you can usually get an upgrade to a better car for the same price. I usually ask for the smallest (cheapest) rental-car when I make a reservation. They usually run out of the small cars and will offer me a better car at the same price as the small one.

If they have the car you reserved and it's too small, you can always upgrade and sometimes get a better price than the posted rate. Give it a try.

\*\*\* Do you know the difference between an idiot and a maniac?
An idiot drives slower than you do, and a maniac drives faster than you do.

Best advice while driving anywhere is...if there's any question, always yield the right of way with a smile. It makes you feel <u>so</u> good, and it makes the other guy feel like a jerk.

Do you know that picking up your rental car at the airport may cost you 10% more? If you don't mind a short ride in their van or bus, you just paid for this report. And you can save over and over again. Remember it depends on the airport. Everyone's different. Kinda like people.

The light's shining in your hotel room and you forgot your pins. Pull the drapes closed and push a table or chair against them to hold in place. Or take one of the pants' hangers with their clips and use them to close the drapes.

If you love your pet...and who doesn't, contact your Vet before shipping them on a trip in the aircraft's cargo bin. Your Vet may give a shot or a pill to sedate your pet and give you some good ideas to make it nicer.

A Savvy Traveler never talks about flying along at 30,000 feet. Starting at 18,000 feet, we call each altitude a Flight Level. This info may not save you any money, but it will impress your friends and you might win a beer in a bet.

\*\*\* During one bumpy flight, the Senior Attendant was confronted by an elderly gentleman that had to relieve himself immediately. The lavatory was occupied. She stood next to him holding a plastic bucket while he emptied his bladder. Can you imagine the glamour of the job?

About the same time in the back of the plane, a young lady was emptying the contents of her stomach in a bag being held open by the Junior Flight Attendant. A couple of good troupers I'd say. But some people see only the glamour of being a Flight Attendant. It's not an easy job. They do serve your needs, but they're really there for your safety and well being. Please keep that in mind. For 30 years I'd had the distinct pleasure of working with some of the nicest and most dedicated people I know. You'll recognize them as your friendly Flight Attendants. Be nice to them. They're trying to be nice to you.

My dentist told me that if you ever crack or break a tooth, or lose a filling, put some soft wax on the tooth until you can get to a dentist. If you must have treatment immediately in the USA, check the Yellow Pages. The local Dental Society will have and emergency number listed. The dentists who are on call usually do not charge extra for the service.

If you don't like the hotel soap, carry a bar of your favorite hand soap in your checked luggage. It's great for shaving and shampooing as well.

Three-in-one alarms. Google Traveler Checklist for a combination fire alarm, burglar alarm and personal security device. It's small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. It lets out a 105-decibel alarm when you pull the ring.

Do you like raw oysters? Be careful. I'll never eat another one. A dear friend died after having to undergo not one, but two liver transplants after eating some raw oysters. The risk is not worth it. Eat your food steaming hot. Heat kills germs that can hurt you.

Doctors say "forget salads, cold sauces and cold soups".

Skip raw fruits and vegetables that you can't peel yourself.

Use bottled water for drinking and brushing your teeth.

Avoid ice unless the hotel/restaurant uses bottled water to make ice.

Drink canned or bottled beverages. I'm always partial to the local beers which are distinctively different...in moderation, of course.

Check on immunization shots. And, depending on where you're going, update your vaccinations.

\*\*\* As you travel through life - remember the four-way test of all the things you think, say and do: (From the Rotarians)

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Check with your doctor for diarrhea and constipation medicines. Everyone says the pink stuff is a good preventative. As always, preparation and prevention is better than the cure.

If you have to carry special medicines or syringes for medical use or emergencies, carry a letter from your doctor explaining their purpose.

Keep in mind the risk of sexual encounters.

Who knows what you might bring back? It's not worth dying for.

On board the aircraft, be aware of restrictions on the use of electronic equipment. Pacemakers are OK. ©

Ask your next hotel desk clerk if it's OK to take a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Put it in your travel bag and use it when in a hotel room without a sign.

\*\*\* Did you hear about the beautiful lady Flight Attendant who took a sleeping pill before going to bed in a noisy hotel? She woke up (sort of) to go to the bathroom and opened the door to the hallway instead. As the door slammed shut, she really woke up; naked as the day she was born, without her key or contact lenses. She panicked. Can you imagine her emotional state? She managed to find the room assigned to one of the other Flight Attendants who took her in, wrapped a blanket around her and called for a bellman to bring her key. No harm, no foul as they say in basketball.

I'm glad it was a safe and happy ending.

(Submitted by a FA who saved her friend).

I told this story to my Chief Pilot who said, "Oh yes, my father did the same thing in Las Vegas. Except he was in his underwear, and I was in the same room". Let it be a lesson. Lock the deadbolt and secure the chains, and hope it never happens to you.

**FIRE**...At your hotel, know where the emergency exit is located. Walk to it from your room. Open the door and check out the stairway.

Try to stay on lower floors. Fireman's ladders usually can't reach the top floors of high-rise hotels.

If there's a fire...don't use the elevators!

If the fire is in your room, get out of there and close the door but take your key with you. Don't fight the fire. Report the fire by pulling the alarm.

If you hear an alarm, test your door with your hand for heat. Check the peephole for smoke or flames. Turn off the air-conditioner and/or heater.

If the door is hot, or you see smoke or flames, stay in your room. Phone for help using the in-room phone and / or your cell phone. Fill the tub with water and seal door cracks with wet towels. Crack open the window just enough to breathe. Cover your face with wet towels. Hang a sheet or towel out the window as a signal you're there. Splash the door with water to cool the door.

Break out your smoke (swim) goggles and/or your smoke hood.

Put on clothing to cover exposed flesh. (Not nylon panty hose)

If the door is cool, take your room key and open the door slowly. Stay low beneath the smoke and walk or crawl to the nearest exit and down to the street.

Don't open any door from the stairwell without first checking the door for heat. You could open into an inferno. If you can't go down, go back to your room and defend yourself there as I described above.

When away from the fire, call your family and tell them you're OK.

You know this sort of thing will never happen to you, but it's best to be prepared. And don't smoke in bed.

Oh yes, as Baron Hilton once said when asked if he had any advice for hotel guests. "Be sure to put the curtain inside the tub when you shower." It's amazing how something as silly as that stuck with me for 50 years.

I traveled a lot, usually gone 3 to 4 days at a time. Someone asked what I carry in my "Shaving Kit". I took inventory for you. Remember...liquids in a plastic bag in your carry-on luggage. Items in blue go in checked luggage. Here goes:

Digital Travel Alarm Clock Diarrhea & Constipation pills

Aspirins Band-Aids

Vitamins Tylenol PM (Sleep aids)

Razor and Blades
Anti-acid Tablets
Matches
Candle
Sunscreen
Hand Lotion
Chap-stick
Vaseline

Soap Contac Cold Pills
Stimudents Sudafed anti-sneeze
Dental Floss Breath Fresh Mints

Tooth Paste Corkscrew
Styptic Pencil Tweezers
After Shave Lotion Deodorant
Non metallic Nail File Body Powder
Emery Board Sewing Kit

First Aid Booklet CPR/Heimlich Instructions

Ear Plugs Neck Pillow (Air)

Eye Shades Slippers

Spot Remover Hair Brush/Comb

Bottle Opener Night Light

Remember the Airlines will confiscate anything that might be used as a weapon.

I highly recommend you put a small knife or scissors in your car's ashtray.

It's a handy tool to have if you ever need to cut your seat belt or shoulder harness in an emergency.

Wear jackets with lots of pockets. You can always use the space.

\*\*\*I gave the passengers the good-news...bad-news one morning when I was late for the flight. Good news was their Captain was well rested. Bad news was the Hotel missed my wake-up call because an electrical interruption knocked off the radio-alarm clock and their automatic wake-up calling program. The passengers got a small chuckle from the story. I guess we've all overslept.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST (Packing your Bags) my wife told me to just list the items that I pack. She said, "We ladies know how to take care of ourselves". OK men, it's all yours. Ladies add or delete whatever you want.

Travel Tickets Itinerary (Schedules)
Hotel Reservations Phone #'s & Addresses

Credit Cards Passports
Travelers Checks ATM Cards

Regular Check Book Cash, US & Foreign

\_\_\_\_\_

Smart Phone IPad etc.

Shoes Dress, Slippers, Athletic, Shower, Casual Socks Black, Brown, Blue, White, Gray, Tan

Slacks Dress, Casual,

Shorts Tennis, Jogging, Swim Suit

Belts Black, Brown

Suits Blue, Brown. Pack inside out Warm Up, Jogging, etc

Shirts Dress, Casual

Shirts Athletic

Handkerchiefs Back pocket and Lapel Ties (roll, not fold) Clasp, Rings, Lapel Pins

Sport coat Jacket

Hats Dress, Baseball, Rain, Sun

Sweaters Your Favorites
Underwear Shorts, Shirts
Shaving Kit Hair Dryer

Travel Iron Electrical Adapter, Night Light

Paiamas Robe

Cameras Flash, Lens, Bag, Batteries
Discount Cards Travel Agent ID, Calling Cards
Family Pictures Travel Flask (for adult beverages)

Diary Driver's License, Picture IDs & Copies

Pen/Pencil Set Highlighters
Glasses Reading and Sun

Medicines Pepto Bismol, Antacids, Laxatives

Laundry Bag Extra Nylon bags (as luggage for homecoming gifts)

Address Book Reading Materials

Police, Neighbors Mail, Newspaper, Deliveries, Workers

Vets for Pets Coffee Maker and Coffee/Tea

Parents, Relatives Mini First-Aid Kit

Medical Forms Plastic Bottles/Sealable Containers

Calculator Matches, Candle, Flashlight

Raincoat, Gloves Topcoat, Umbrella Washcloth, Soap Zip-lock Bags Clock-Radio Stereo Cassette

Plastic Cups Wash and Drys, Sani-Wipes

Games, Puzzles Playing Cards Door Alarm Smoke Alarm

Inflatable Neck Pillow Sleep Mask, Ear Plugs

Stuff for the Kids Special Foods, Hi-energy bars

Golden Rule Society's Action Plan for Living

Make a checklist for special trips such as skiing, backpacking, etc.

Savvy business travelers carry a bright bulb (100 watts or more) so they can read and work in their room. Hotels usually have very dim bulbs.

Check the alarm clock in your hotel room. The last guest may have set the alarm for a 2:00 AM wake-up. Forgetting this simple tip has ruined many a good night's sleep.

\*\*\* For a promotion with Sea World, Southwest Airlines painted one airplane to look like a killer whale. San Diego Airport Admin got a call from a guy who said "I must be getting old or I gotta quit drinking because Shamu just flew over my house". (Submitted by Dannette Bewley).

If you can, get your seat assignment and boarding pass from your before you leave for the airport.

Get to the airport, bus/train station or departure pier EARLY.

Double booking is expensive insurance. To get the best deal you must reserve at least 14 days before flying and pay for the tickets within 24 hours of making the reservation. So now you'll have 2 tickets on 2 Airlines. You can't get a refund for the unused ticket but its value can be applied to a new ticket within a year. Consider buying a higher priced refundable ticket for the back-up. If you don't use it you can get your money back.

This is a pain in the "you-know" for you and the airlines.

Don't ever throw left over soap bars in the toilet. The soap softens and swells and blocks the toilet. When it does you're in for a big surprise.

\*\*\* As the Captain I could perform weddings on the airplane.
But the marriage was only good for the duration of the flight. :-)

Don't mess around with Custom's Agents. They really don't enjoy going through your dirty laundry. Keep quiet. Answer questions courteously.

Need to call your answering machine from outside North America? Phone service abroad usually uses pulse dialing. You may not be able to get your messages. If you must do it, go to an electronics store for a phone dialer. It's about the size of a credit card and will cost you around \$40.00.

Beware of cut-rate Airline Ticket Consolidator rip-off artists. Know who you're doing business with.

Take a short cruise before you sign up for a long one. It's like a test flight.

Never buy travel insurance from the tour operator that arranged your tour. If he goes bankrupt your insurance is probably worthless as well.

I've seen too many people tip where the tip's already included. Dumb!

Flight's been canceled and you're at the airport? Quick, call the airline's reservation number. Or get help from an agent at another <u>empty</u> gate.

Carry a copy of your eyeglass prescription. You'll be so glad you did. (Submitted by J. Paul Roger).

\*\*\* My late Mother, who never went to college, condensed a college degree in two words... **"Make Nice"**. Good advice, wherever you go.

Candied Ginger is a good alternative to commercial motion sickness drugs. No bad side effects like blurry vision, dry mouth or drowsiness.

I know a guy who travels with his insulated coffee mug. He gets more coffee from the Flight Attendants and it stays warmer longer. What a guy!

Got a talkative neighbor on board the plane? Rent a headset or bring your own. It's a nice way to say, "Do not disturb".

Got a toothache? Get some Oil of Clove at the Drugstore. It helps to stop the pain until you get to a Dentist. Worked wonders for me.

Did you know that half the items in Lost and Found aren't claimed? Don't give up on anything. If you lost or forgot something give them a call.

Going overseas? Consider buying emergency health insurance. Call Travelers at (800) 732-5309 or International SOS Assistance at (215) 244-1500. How would you pay for a few days in a foreign hospital?

\*\*\* Did you hear about the guy that couldn't get out of his hotel room? He called the desk and said he was stuck. Of the three doors in his room, the first went into the bathroom, the second, to an adjoining room, was locked and the third had a "Do Not Disturb" sign on it. That's so <u>corny!</u>

To ease the anxiety of a legal emergency, call the International Legal Defense Council at (215) 977-9982. Be prepared.

Start your immunization shots early. A buddy of mine was awful sick as he started his vacation because of getting zapped in the butt with shots he should have had weeks before. Don't wait till the last minute. But, as you know, if it weren't for the "last minute" nothing would ever get done.

Do wear a bracelet or a neck tag identifying any particular health problem you might have. Learn how to say, "I have (your situation)" in the language of the country you're visiting. People really do want to help.

Carry the names and phone numbers of people who you want to have notified in the event of an emergency. Leave your itinerary with these same people back home.

Do you ever get obscene phone calls? Keep a referee's whistle handy to send an earsplitting blast into the telephone. Hang up. Don't respond.

Want to get a refund on a non-refundable ticket? Ask your Travel Agent not to pay the Airline until the customary one-week payment time frame has passed. There's no cost to the agent but you have seven days to get your money back. Discuss this with your Travel Agent. Rules change.

\*\*\*I told the passengers the local time in Indianapolis as we approached for landing. I'd forgotten that Indy <u>did not</u> go on Daylight Saving Time. The Senior Flight Attendant told me that a number of people were worried about missing their connections. What could I do but correct my error and give the passengers a good word of advice..."Never buy a genuine Rolex watch for \$10.00 from a guy on a street corner in Tijuana, Mexico. They don't keep very good time". It got a few chuckles.

A man ran his big Mercedes into the back of our car at a traffic circle in Madrid, Spain. It was wet and slippery. Luckily no one was injured but we were shaken up by an accident in a foreign country. As we moved the cars to the side of the road the other guy just drove away. A well dressed "hit and run" kinda guy. We were able to get the first three numbers of his plate. However, the police couldn't trace him. They suggested if you're trying to get a license number get the last numbers first and the make of the car. They can track a car that way.

A guy that works in a Las Vegas Casino told me to look for three-reel slot machines that have a cherry sitting in the middle. It's usually an indication this machine will return at least a small jack pot within the next five or six pulls. Now aren't you glad you bought these Travel Tips?

One of the biggest complaints I hear from travelers is that hotels charge an access fee to use the in-room telephone. Some hotels charge you \$1.00 (maybe less, sometimes more) just to make a call from your room. It's a sore point for a lot of travelers. Be sure to let the hotel manager know how you feel about the extra charge...nicely of course. If you're making a number of calls, don't hang up between calls. Press the pound sign (#) for a few seconds after your party hangs up. Or use the public phones in the lobby area. I know...it's a pain. Nowadays most all savvy travelers have a cell phone.

Some hotels use alternate operator services, which can really run up the cost of your calls. Solution, call your long distance carrier's toll free 800 access number. Then make your call. It can be a money saver for you

If you're flexible with your travel time choose the first flight of the day. It's seldom delayed because the airplane usually (not always) has spent the night at the airport and should be all set to go on time for you.

\*\*\* The actor Gregory Peck and an agent from a rival airline came running down the Jetway to my airplane in LAX as I stood by the main cabin door. Because our competitor had to cancel their flight Mr. Peck was brought over to our gate. He was so thankful that I held the flight for him to get to Seattle, where the Mayor and others were waiting. I didn't have the heart to tell him that we still had five minutes to go before scheduled departure. I graciously accepted the thanks for the crew and our airline. When deplaning he gave a special appreciation for the wonderful service.

Want a "Special Meal" aboard an airplane? Be sure to order it early. Give them as much time as you can.

Most airlines don't serve meals in coach on domestic flights. They'll sell you a box lunch but they're not very nutritious or healthy. If allowed, many folks are bringing their own lunch in the form of Energy Bars, etc. Sounds like a good idea.

Do you want to get some sleep on your next flight? Be sure to ask for a seat away from the galley area. The Flight Attendants get noisy while working and they talk while you're trying to sleep. Don't ask for an aisle seat. People crawl over you and when you fall asleep some of your vital body parts end up hanging out in the aisle where you get stepped on or bumped by one of those big serving carts...Ouch! Board early to stake out a pillow and blanket. Carry a snugly sweater in your bag.

Find an inexpensive, safe place to stay using Wise-Traveler.

While even cars have gone the way of reliable sticker prices, hotel accommodations can be a haggler's game, with arcane and confusing rules and terminology that seem aimed to sneak dollars out of your pocket even as you think you're making out well. Take the term "corporate rate," for instance. Corporate employees travel a lot; they must get a good rate, right? Well, some of them do, but not the ones who ask for the corporate rate.

Following are some tactics for getting the best hotel rates anytime you travel. Your mileage may vary, and some hotels are more flexible than others, but these tricks should keep you on the winning side of the bargaining table.

#### Ask for a lower rate.

Sounds simple, even doomed, but very often works like a charm. Ask about specials, or any of the following special rates: AAA, senior, family, hotel membership, weekend, government discounts, frequent flyer, convention, shareholder, or corporate rates. Hotels even often have what is called a "fallback" rate, for travelers who are resisting the quoted rate.

Call the hotel directly (instead of the 800 #).

Many times specials are offered at the hotel that can't be submitted through the Central Reservations System. These agents have no direct access to room availability, and are often not authorized to negotiate. Hotel agents are generally more in touch with availability, specials, and are therefore more flexible with rates. (This is very often the best way to go, no matter what price you want to pay. The central reservation agents often have very limited access to actual booking info, as many chains allot a limited number of rooms to the central reservations system. They may even tell you a hotel is sold out when in fact the hotel is discounting rooms because of low booking rates!)

Check Online, <a href="https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/">https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/</a> It's all there for you.

Please Continue...

In addition, many major chains, whether through their own Web site, in conjunction with an airline, or both, offer last-minute deals at many locations, typically for weekend stays. These deals rarely require airline ticket purchases. Take a look for some useful links to Web sites.

# Leave your bags in the car.

Don't haul a huge piece of luggage into the lobby, and then tell the agent that you'd just as soon go elsewhere if they can't bring their rates down. You look tired, hassled, sick of lugging bags, and, to a shrewd hotel clerk, ready to pay handsomely to unpack that bag.

# Be sure to get confirmation numbers.

For anything you do, whether booking or, especially, canceling a reservation, get a confirmation number. "If you must cancel your reservation, do so within the proper time allotment and GET A CANCELLATION # along with the name of the agent you spoke with. Record the information in case you are billed for a noshow reservation. If the agent does not offer a cancellation #, ask for it! Without a valid cancellation # most hotels will not issue a credit."

# Keep an eye on your credit card statements.

Very often, buried in all that junk stuffed in with your credit card statement, are vouchers or guarantees for good hotel rates offered in conjunction with your credit card company. Typically, you have to request a specific rate code, included in the "literature," and reserve and pay for the room with the specific credit card (or one issued by the same bank or company).

# Coupon and Voucher Books.

The number of discount coupon and voucher companies, both in print and directly on the Internet, is almost mind-boggling. Everywhere you look, you can tear off, cut out, download, print out, and even merely mention a discount coupon rate, and you can save on just about every aspect of travel. Search on keyword "Coupons" on NetFind, or take a look at Yahoo's Coupons section for some links to local and online coupon distributors.

But in the midst of this abundance, one discount book stands head and shoulders above the rest, the "Entertainment Books" published by Entertainment Publications. The great majority of discounts available come in at half-price, whether they're 2-for-1 meals or movies, or straight 50% discounts on hotel rooms. The company publishes 175 books annually worldwide, for dozens of major US and Canadian cities and regions, as well as international destinations and a more general "Travel America at Half-Price" booklet good around the

country.

A quick pass through one of the books reveals thousands of dollars of potential savings. The trick is, as ubiquitous as these books are, they're hard to find! You won't find them in many bookstores, as the company typically sells them in bulk to nonprofit organizations and convention bureaus, which then resell them to members and visitors.

The city books cost \$25.00 to \$45.00, and the "Travel America at Half-Price" carried a price tag of \$37.95. The company maintains offices in most cities it covers, and you can find them in local phonebooks, or contact the company directly at Entertainment Publications,

2125 Butterfield Road, Troy, MI 48084, https://answers.entertainment.com/.

#### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE...**

Turn your water heater to the lowest setting.

Set the house temperature for maximum savings.

Leave drapes and shades as you normally do.

Lock all the doors and windows.

Unplug electronic items such as TVs and Radios.

I keep our Golden Rule Society Computers and phone lines on with Wi-Fi available using <a href="https://get.gotomypc.com/">https://get.gotomypc.com/</a> to access emails and messages.

Pack your car with the garage door down, so people won't know you're going. Disconnect your automatic garage door opener.

Suspend mail and newspaper deliveries.

Notify the Police Department to keep an eye on your house.

Give a key to a relative or trusted friend to check the house and water the plants and lawn if needed.

If you subscribe to a security service, be sure their contacts are up to date.

Unless the hoses to the washing machine are wrapped in steel mesh, turn off the water to the machine.

Leave a radio turned on in the house.

Leave a timer light on.

Take out the trash - nothing like coming home to something rotting in the kitchen.

Backup the computer.

Confirm your bills have been paid, including your Credit Card bills.

It's embarrassing to learn your Credit Card is maxed out.

Clean out the billfolds of unneeded "stuff".

Pack some zip-lock bags for all sorts of good uses.

OK FRIENDS - YOU'RE ALL SET TO GO ... LAST SECOND ITEMS:

Luggage Travel Reservations

Passports Wallets Purses Cash ATM/Credit Cards Travelers Checks Keys Kids

Set your house alarm but, before you do, please turn off the iron. ©

Have Fun. Enjoy your journey. Be Safe.

Questions or Suggestions or Donations?
Visit our website @ www.goldenrulesociety.org

Send a SASE to Captain Len Kaine, PO Box 711, Coronado, CA 92178-0711

AIRLINE RULES AND REGULATIONS... Just enter the words in your browser. Good luck. You'll be there so long you might miss your flight.

For a Free California Tourist info & Visitor guide, call 1-800-862-2543

## AIRLINE TICKET DEALS

If you have a flexible schedule, like to travel and have a computer, we have good news for you. Some major airlines are offering "deeply discounted" round trip tickets on the Internet for consumers willing to travel on Saturday and return in two or three days.

They're called "e-fares", and they can save travelers hundreds of dollars every time they step aboard an airliner, if the traveler doesn't mind making plans at the last minute.

E-fares are available for Saturday travel booked a day or two in advance, with returns Monday or Tuesday. How good are these e-fare deals?

Here are some samples I pulled off their web sites. The fares and destinations are constantly changing. So check them out.

You can find the seats and fares available on the airline websites; look for information on "e-fares" or "special deals." However, this e-fare business is not for the faint of heart. Book the deal when you see it, or somebody else may grab it.

Not all major airlines are offering "e-fares." Some Come and Go!

Some may offer the service where you can list your email address and they'll send you their low fare opportunities. Good luck and safe travels.

\*\*\*\*\*\*Visit <a href="https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/">https://wise-traveler.com/goldenrulesociety/</a> then call the Hotel directly to see if they'll beat the price.

# WARNING: HOTELS COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.

Good Guidance From:

Captain RH Kauffman, Los Angeles County Fire Department who wrote...

Have you ever been in a hotel during a fire? It's a frightening experience, and you should start thinking about it. For instance, how would you have acted if you had been in one of these fires?

The Thomas Hotel, San Francisco, CA 20 DEAD The Gulf Hotel, Houston, TX 54 DEAD The La Salle Hotel, Chicago, IL 61 DEAD The Wincoff Hotel, Atlanta, GA 119 DEAD

Of course, there have been hundreds more with thousands of deaths, but I think you're getting the drift. The majority of those people did not have to die.

My wife had been in the airline industry close to 8 years and while accompanying her on a trip recently, I learned how ill-prepared she was for a hotel fire. It's not her fault. It's quite common. Hotels, however, have no excuse for being ill-prepared, but believe me; you cannot depend on the staff in case of a fire. History has shown some hotels won't even call the Fire Department. I have been a fire-fighter in Los Angeles for over 10 years and have seen many people die needlessly in building fires. It's sad because most could have saved themselves.

What you're about to read is roughly the same "briefing" I have given my wife on hotel safety. I do not intend to "play down" the aspects of hotel fires or soft soap the language. It's critical that you remember how to react, and, if I shake you a little, maybe you will.

Contrary to what you have seen on television or in the movies, fire is not likely to chase you down and burn you to death. It's the bi-products of fire that will kill you. Super heated fire gases (smoke) and panic will almost always be the cause of death long before the fire arrives if it ever does. This is very important. You must know how to avoid smoke and panic to survive a hotel fire. With this in mind, here are a few tips:

## SMOKE:

Where there is smoke, there is not necessarily fire. A smoldering mattress, for instance, will produce great amounts of smoke. Air conditioning and air exchange systems will sometimes pick up smoke from one room and carry it out to other rooms or floors. You should keep that in mind because 70% of the hotel fires are caused by smoking and matches. In any case, your prime objective should be to leave at the first sign of smoke. Smoke, being warmer, will start accumulating at the ceiling and work its way down. The first thing you will notice is THERE ARE NO "EXIT" SIGNS. I'll talk more about the

exits later, just keep in mind when you have smoke, it's too late to start looking for "EXIT" signs.

Another thing about smoke you should be aware of is how irritating it is on the eyes. The problem is your eyes will only take so much irritation then they close. Try all you want, you won't be able to open them if there is still smoke in the area. It's one of your body's compensatory mechanisms. Lastly, the fresh air you want to breathe is at or near the floor. Get on your hands and knees (or stomach) and STAY THERE as you make your way out. Those who don't probably won't get far. Think about this poor man's predicament for a moment:

He wakes up at 0230 hrs to a smell of smoke. He puts on his trousers and runs into the hallway only to be greeted by heavy smoke. He has no idea where the exit is. He runs to the right. He's coughing and gagging, his eyes hurt. "Where is it?" "WHERE IS IT?" Panic begins to set in. About the same time he thinks maybe he is going the wrong way, his eyes close. He can't find his way back to his room (it wasn't so bad in there). His chest hurts, he desperately needs oxygen. Total panic sets in as he runs in the other direction. He is completely disorientated. He cannot hold his breath any longer. We found him at 0250... DEAD.

What caused all the smoke?, a small fire in a room where they store the roll-away beds. Remember, the presence of smoke does not necessarily mean the hotel is burning down.

## PANIC:

Panic; is a sudden, overpowering terror often afflicting many people at once. Panic is the product of your imagination running wild and it will set in as soon as it dawns on you you're lost, disorientated, or you don't know what to do. Panic is almost irreversible, once it sets in, it seems to grow. Panic will make you do things that could kill you. People in a state of panic are rarely able to save themselves. If you understand what's going on, what to do, where to go, and how to get there, panic will not set in. The man in the example I used would not have died if he had known what to do. For instance, had he known the exit was to the left and 4 doors down on the left, he could have gotten on his hands and knees where there was fresh air and started counting doorways. Even if he couldn't keep his eyes open, he could feel his way as he crawled, counting the doors. 1... 2... 3... BINGO! He would NOT have panicked. He would be alive today, telling of his "great hotel fire" experience.

#### **EXITS:**

The elevator drops you at the 12th floor and you start looking for your room. "Let's see ... room 1236 ... here it is". You open the door and drop your luggage. AT THAT VERY MOMENT, turn around and go back into the hallway to check your exit. You may NEVER get another chance. Don't go into the bathroom, open the curtains, turn on the TV, smarten your

appearance, or crash out on the bed. I know you're tired and you want to relax, but it's absolutely essential ... no ... CRITICAL that you develop the HABIT of checking for your exit after you drop your luggage. It won't take 30 seconds, and believe me; you may NEVER get another chance. If there are 2 of you sharing a room, BOTH of you locate your exit. Talk it over as you walk towards it. Is it on the left or right ... do you have to turn a corner? Open the exit door ... what do you see ... stairs or another door? (Sometimes there are 2 doors to go through, especially in newer hotels.) I'd hate to see you crawl into a broom closet thinking it was the exit! Are you passing any rooms where your friends are staying? If there was a fire, you may want to bang on their doors as you go by. Is there anything in the hallway that would be in your way ... an ice-machine maybe? As you arrive back at your room, take a look once more. Get a good mental picture of what everything looks like. Do you think you could get to the exit with a "blindfold" on?

This procedure takes less than one minute and to be effective, it must become a habit. Those of you who are too lazy or tired to do it consistently are real "riverboat gamblers". There are over 5,000 hotel fires per year. The odds are sure to catch up with you.

# **USING THE EXIT:**

Should you have to leave your room during the night, it is important to close the door behind you. This is very effective in keeping out fire and will minimize smoke damage to your belongings.

There was a house fire in Los Angeles recently where an entire family died. It was a 3 bedroom house with a den and family room. That night, the occupants had left every door in the house open except one, and it had led to the washrooms where the family dog slept. The house, except for the washroom, was a total loss. When the fire was knocked down, firemen opened the door to find the family dog wagging his tail. Because the door was left shut, the dog and room were in fine shape. Some doors take hours to burn through. They are excellent "fire stops" so close every door you go through. If you find smoke in the exit stairwell, you can bet people are leaving the doors open as they enter.

Always take your key with you. Get into the habit of putting the key in the same place every time you stay in a hotel. Since every hotel has night stands, that's an excellent location. It's close to the bed so you can grab it when you leave without wasting time looking for it. It's important you close your door as you leave, and it's equally as important that you don't lock yourself out. You may find conditions in the hallway untenable, and want to return to your room. If you're now in the habit of checking your exit and leaving the room key on the night stand, you're pretty well prepared to leave the hotel in case of a fire, so let's "walk" through it once.

Something will awaken you during the night. It could be the telephone, someone banging on the door, the smell of smoke, or some other disturbance. But, whatever it is, investigate it before you go back to sleep. A popular "Inn" near LAX recently had a fire and one of the guests later said he was awakened by people screaming but went back to bed thinking it was a party. He dammed near died in bed.

Let's suppose you wake up to smoke in your room. Grab your key off the night stand, roll off the bed and head for the door on your hands and knees. Even if you could tolerate the smoke by standing, DON'T. You'll want to save your eyes and lungs for as long as possible. BEFORE you open the door, feel it with the palm of your hand. If the door or knob is quite hot, don't open it. The fire could be just outside. We'll talk about that later. With the palm of your hand still on the door (in case you need to slam it shut), slowly open the door and peek into the hallway to "assess conditions". As you make your way to the exit, stay against the wall on the side where the exit is. It is very easy to get lost or disorientated in a smoky atmosphere. If you're on the wrong side of the hallway, you might crawl right on by the exit. If you're in the middle of the hall, people who are running will trip over you. Stay on the same side as the exit and count doors as you go. When you reach the exit and begin to descend it is very important that you WALK down and hang onto the handrail as you go. Don't take this point lightly. The people who will be running will Knock you down and you might not be able to get up. Just hang on and stay out of everyone's way. All you have to do now is leave the building, cross the street and watch the action. When the fire is out and the smoke clears, you will be allowed to re-enter the building. If you closed your room door when you left, your belongings should be in pretty good shape. Smoke will sometimes get into the exit stairway. If it's a tall building, the smoke may not rise very high before it cools and becomes heavy. This is called "stacking". If your room is on the 20th floor, for instance, you could enter the stairway and find it clear. As you descend you could encounter smoke that has "stacked". Do not try to "run through it" - people die that way. Turn around and walk up. Now you must really hang onto the handrail. The people running down will probably be glassy-eyed and in a panic and will knock you right out of your socks! They will run over anything in their way, including a fireman. You'll feel as though you're going upstream against the Chicago Bears, but hang on and keep heading up towards the roof. If for some reason you try one of the doors to an upper floor and find it locked, that's normal, don't worry about it. Exit stairwells are designed so that you cannot enter from the street or roof. Once inside, however, you may exit at the street or roof but cannot go from floor to floor; this is done for security purposes. When you reach the roof, prop the door with something. This is the ONLY time you will leave a door open. Any smoke in the stairwell may now vent itself to the atmosphere and you won't be locked out. Now find the windward side of the building (the wet finger method is quite reliable), have a seat and wait until they find you. Roofs have proven to be a

safe secondary exit and refuge area. Stay put. Firemen will always make a thorough search of the building looking for bodies. Live ones are nice to find.

## YOUR ROOM:

After you check your exit and drop the key on the night stand, there is one more thing for you to do. Become familiar with your room. See if your bathroom has a vent; all do, but some have electric motors. Should you decide to remain in your room, turn it on to help remove the smoke. Take a good look at the window in your room. Does it open? Does it have a latch, a lock? Does it slide? Now open the window (if it works) and look outside. What do you see? A sign, ledges? How high up are you? Get a good mental picture of what's outside, it may come in handy. It's important you know how to OPEN your window; you may have to close it again. Should you wake up to smoke in your room and the door is too hot to open or the hallway is completely charged with smoke, don't panic. Many people have defended themselves quite nicely in their room and so can you.

One of the first things you'll want to do is open the window to vent the smoke. I hope you learned how to open it when you checked in. It could be dark and smoking in the room. Those who don't will probably throw a chair through the window. If there is smoke outside and you have no window to close, it will enter your room and you will be trapped. The broken glass from the window will cut like a surgeon's scalpel. At the Ramada Inn fire, an airline captain on a layover threw a chair through the window and cut himself seriously. Don't compound your problems. Besides, if you break out your window with a chair, you could hit a fireman on the street below. If there is fresh air outside, leave the window open, but keep an eye on it. At this point, most people would stay at the window, waving frantically, while their room continues to fill with smoke, if the fire burns through. This procedure is not conducive to longevity.

You must be aggressive and fight back. Here are some things you can do in any order you choose ... if the room phone works, let someone know you're in there. Flip on the bathroom vent. Fill the bath with water. (Don't get into it it's for fire fighting. You'd be surprised how many people try to save themselves by getting into a tub of water - that's how you cook lobsters and crabs, so you know what happens!) Wet some sheets or towels, and stuff the cracks of your door to keep out the smoke. With your ice-bucket, bail the water from the bath onto the door to keep it cool. Feel the walls - if they are hot, bail water onto them too. You can put your mattress up against the door and block it in place with the dresser. Keep it wet - keep everything wet. Who cares about the mess? A wet towel tied around your nose and mouth is an effective filter if your fold it in a triangle and put the corner in your mouth. If you swing a wet towel around the room, it will help clear the smoke. If there is a fire outside the window, pull down the curtains and move everything combustible away from the window. Bail water all around the window. Use your imagination and you may come up with some tricks of your own. The

point is, there shouldn't be any reason to panic - keep fighting until reinforcements arrive. It won't be long.

#### **ELEVATORS:**

There isn't an elevator made that can be used as a "safe" exit. In all states, elevators by law, cannot be considered an "EXIT". They are complicated devices with a mind of their own. The problem is people only know one way out of a building - the way they came in, and if that was the elevator, they are in trouble. Elevator shafts and machinery extends through all floors of a building, and besides, with the shaft filling with smoke, there are hundreds of other things that could go wrong and probably will. Everyone tries to get on the elevator in an emergency.

Fights break out and people get seriously injured. Smoke, heat and fire do funny things to elevator call buttons, controls and other complicated parts. Case in point:

Hotel guests in a New Orleans hotel were called on their room phones and notified of a fire on the upper floors. They were in no danger, but asked to evacuate the hotel as a precaution. Five of the guests decided to use the elevator. It was discovered later that the elevator only went down about three floors and then for some reason started going up. It did not stop until it reached the fire floor. The doors came open and were held open by smoke obscuring the photo cell light beam. Besides the five guests in the elevator who died of suffocation, firemen noticed that every button had been pushed, probably in a frantic attempt to stop the elevator.

Fires have killed many people, including firemen. Several New York firemen recently used an elevator when responding to a fire up on the 20th floor. They pushed 18, but the elevator went right on by the 18th floor. The doors came open on the 20th floor to an inferno and remained open long enough to kill all the firemen. The doors then closed and the elevator returned to the lobby. Hand operated elevators are not exempt. Some elevator operators have been beaten by people fighting over the controls. If you have any idea that there might be smoke or fire in your hotel, avoid the elevator like the plague.

## JUMPING:

It's important I say something about jumping because so many people do it. Most are killed or injured in the process. I cannot tell you whether or not you should jump. Every fire, although similar, is different. I can tell you, however, what usually happens to "jumpers". If you're on the 1st floor, you could just OPEN the window and climb out. From the second floor you could probably make it with a sprained ankle, but you must jump out far enough to clear the building. Many people hit window sills and ledges on the way down, and they go into cartwheels. If they don't land on their head and kill themselves, they're injured seriously. If you're any higher than the 3rd, the chances are you won't survive the fall. You would probably be better off fighting the fire.

Nearby buildings seem closer than they really are and many have died trying to jump to a building that looked 5 feet away, but was actually 15 feet away. Panic is what causes most people to jump. There was a fire in Brazil a few years ago where 40 people jumped from windows and all 40 died. Ironically, 36 of those jumped after the fire was out. Many people have survived by staying put while those around them jumped to their death. If you can resist panic and think clearly, you can use your own best judgment.

## CALLING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Believe it or not, most hotels will not call the fire department until they verify whether or not there really is a fire and try to put it out themselves. Should you call the reception to report a fire, they will always send the bellhop, security guard, or anyone else that's not busy to investigate. Hotels are very reluctant to "disturb" their guests and fire engines in the streets are quite embarrassing and tend to draw crowds. In the New Orleans hotel fire, records show that the fire department received only one call, from a quest in one of the rooms. The desk had been notified of the fire 20 minutes earlier and had sent a security guard to investigate. His body was later found on the 12th floor about 10 feet from the elevator. Should you want to report a fire or smell of smoke, ask the hotel operator for an outside line for a local call. Or use your cel phone to call the fire department and tell them your room number in case you need to be rescued. You need not feel embarrassed, that's what we're here for. We would much rather come to a small fire or smoking electrical motor that you smelled than be called 20 minutes later after 6 people have died. Don't let hotel "policy" intimidate you into doing otherwise. The hotel may be a little upset with you, but really ... who gives a damn? The fire department will be glad you called: you may have saved many lives. Besides, it's a great way for us to meet people!

Well, the rest is up to you. Only you can condition yourself to react in a hotel emergency. You can be well prepared by developing the habits we've talked about.

**Footnote from Captain Kaine...** My wife Anne and I visited Seoul, S. Korea as one of our stops during a Far East Vacation. The Hotel had two "Oxygen Breathing Units" encased in plastic in our closet for fire emergencies. It gave about 20 minutes of pure oxygen with a plastic face cover to keep smoke out of your eyes. The EXIT signs in the hallways were near the floor where you could see them if you were crawling on the floor in search of the EXIT. Excellent ideas and I'm surprised that these are not required in all Hotels.

#### Beware of this Hotel scam...

Copy and send it as an email to traveling family and friends.

You arrive at your hotel and check in at the front desk.

Typically when checking in, you give the front desk your credit card for any room charges.

You go to your room and settle in. All is good.

The hotel receives a call and the caller asks for (as an example) room 620 - which happens to be your room.

The phone rings in your room. You answer and the person on the other end says the following:

This is the front desk. When checking in, we came across a problem with your charge card information.

Please re-read me your credit card number and verify the last 3 digits numbers at the reverse side of your charge card.'

Not thinking anything wrong, since the call seems to come from the front desk you oblige.

But actually, it is a scam by someone calling from outside the hotel.

They have asked for a random room number, then ask you to verify for your credit card and address information and the correct spelling of your name. They sound so professional, that you think you are talking to the front desk.

If you ever encounter this scenario on your travels, tell the caller that you will be down to the front desk to clear up any problems.

Then, call directly and ask if there was a problem.

If there was none, inform the manager of the hotel that someone tried to scam you of your credit card information, acting like a front desk employee.

This was sent by someone who had been duped......and is still cleaning up the mess.

Please, spread the word by forwarding this e-mail (as a "Bcc"). You might just help someone avoid a nasty experience.

PS As a bonus, here are a few more links to enjoy the good guidance of others.

Another Airline Captain's site: http://www.urcaptainspekin.com/travel\_tips.htm

Google's site with tons of tips...

http://www.google.com/search?hl=&q=travel+tips&sourceid=navclient-ff&rlz=1B3GGGL\_en\_237\_241&ie=UTF-8&aq=1&oq=Travel+Tips



Len Kaine President

A Charity Making it a Better World
P.O. Box 711 Coronado, CA 92178-0711 USA

www.goldenrulesociety.org lenkaine@grsmail.com

(619) 437 - 4422

Dear Friends,

Again, I hope and pray the **Captain's Travel Tips** will keep you safe, save you time and money and help you to enjoy your travels.

GBY & Yours now and always,

Len 💩 😊

Nobel Peace Prize Nominations 2019, 2018, 2017, 2014 & 2003 Help Make it a Better World.

Visit our site by clicking www.goldenrulesociety.org

Please: **Donate for Rewards**