

Travel Tips & Reminders

Many thanks for booking your Holiday with us. Enclosed you should find everything you need to have a wonderful time!

It shouldn't be too late to book any of the Holiday Extras shown on your TICKET WALLET if you've overlooked something, so please get in touch without delay if you still need anything and we'll try and get them added to the booking.

Meanwhile it's important to us that everything runs smoothly on your trip, so hopefully the following tips and reminders will be of use:

TRAVEL INSURANCE – You should book your Travel Insurance as soon as you book your holiday. You never know when sickness or an accident to you or a loved one could put a stop to your plans. Without Travel Insurance in place you WILL lose money before you go and it could cost you a fortune whilst you're away! All policies should now include covid cover, however wordings vary between companies. Make sure you know what yours covers you for!

MEDICAL INSURANCE/EHIC – EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD – Make sure you have the appropriate cover for your trip and your Emergency Contact Numbers. Also remember to get pre-authorisation for any treatment needed and keep all receipts. The Global Health Insurance Card replaces your EHIC. You can apply for your GHIC online, make sure you use this FREE site <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk> and beware of commercial sites who will try and charge you for this free service.

PASSPORTS & VISAS – Have you checked they are in date and have sufficient months left for where you are going? Since Brexit, passports now expire after 10 years from the start date and any extra months added previously now don't count! Just as important - have you checked that the first name in your passport matches the first name on your tickets and that all the spellings are correct? Also have you checked to see if you need a Visa for where you're travelling to? If you do - make sure you use the official sites and not a commercial site who will overcharge you.

AUSTRALIA - <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651> CANADA <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

INDIA - <http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/> TURKEY <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> USA - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

For a full list of Countries where you need a Visa see the Passport & Visa Section on the Holiday Extras page on your Travel Club website.

FOREIGN OFFICE ADVICE – Whether there's been a Coup, an Earth Tremor, Terrorist Activity, a Covid 19 outbreak or subsequent variant or just local unrest, the Travel Operators all take their lead from the advice shown on the Foreign Office advice - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> The Operators will not allow cancellations or amendments to travel because of such incidents unless the Foreign Office say it is unsafe to travel. The site also shows the last time something happened in your particular destination.

SEATING ON THE PLANE – The Travel Agents nightmare as it is the one aspect of your trip that we have least control over but which causes most upset. We definitely recommend pre-booking your seats if you want to guarantee sitting together, even though there is a cost depending on where you sit on the plane!

AIRPORT ARRIVAL TIMES – More and more people by doing an online check-in are allowing less and less time to get to the Airport or queue with a bag. The airlines now have no sympathy for late arrivals and you will have to buy a new ticket. Don't be the ones to get caught out in those motorway/counter/security/passport queues! Better to have a bite to eat when you're early, rather than tears when you're late. This also applies when flying back to the UK. Remember that when abroad, passport control is often AFTER Duty Free and long queues could catch you out and cause you to miss your plane! Always check before having that last drink!

FAST PASS – Most airports now operate a Fast Pass lane to get you through security faster. Well worth paying the small extra amount to give you greater piece of mind.

LUGGAGE LABELS – With so many bags looking similar these days, our tags should make your bags stand out on the carousel and more importantly help track you if they go astray. Don't however fill in the home address side until on your return journey.

BAGGAGE SIZES & WEIGHTS – Have you checked that what you're taking as baggage, fits size and weight wise with your particular airline, be it for hold or cabin. The restrictions are now a minefield and if you don't check first then you will be made to pay or face refused boarding. With some airlines now charging between £2.50 and £10 just to ensure you can put it in the overhead locker – you need to be aware of their rules BEFORE you turn up!

E-TICKETS – Some airlines will work on just your passport or Confirmation number. Some want to see a copy of your Ticket/Boarding Pass. Don't risk just storing it on your phone as batteries can die. Play safe and have a paper copy in your possession.

PHONE/TABLET RESTRICTIONS – – With the debates ongoing, always check first to see if your particular item is still allowed inside the plane and even if it is make sure it's charged up! The UK has currently banned passengers returning on flights from some countries from having all phones, laptops, tablets and ereaders - and some accessories that can be used with them - in your hand luggage if they're larger than any of these measurements, (even if it's just been bought in Duty Free):

16cm in length, 9.3cm in width, 1.5cm in depth (thickness) Therefore you must check on the latest advice BEFORE you travel. www.gov.uk/hand-luggage-restrictions/electronic-devices-and-electrical-items

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS – Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide. There are a number of websites to look at regarding current risks for where you travelling. One of the best is <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. If in doubt check with your local surgery for up to date information regarding your destination before departure. They should also advise you on what medication/malaria tablets etc are best for you, taking into account your medical history. Once there always take local advice on drinking the water/street food/mosquito risk etc and of course take precautions when exposed to the sun.

CURRENCY – Always difficult to know what's the best advice, with constantly fluctuating exchange/commission rates you could do worse than use your credit card to get the majority of your monies when you arrive from local ATM's. If you use them to pay for meals/goods etc, always remember to choose paying in the local currency and not in GBP to try and get the better exchange rate. Remember however not to let the card out of your sight and have the lost/stolen card company numbers handy in case of the worst!

LIQUIDS & SHARPS - the following liquids are restricted when you go through baggage control:

- All drinks: including water
- Liquid or semi-liquid foods: including soup, jam, honey and syrups
- Cosmetics and toiletries: including creams, lotions, oils, perfumes, mascara and lip gloss
- Sprays: including shaving foam, hairspray and spray deodorants
- Pastes: including toothpaste
- Gels: including hair and shower gel
- Contact lens solution: including other solutions and items of similar consistency
- You must take no more than 100ml of any of these liquids on a flight
- Liquids must be placed into individual 100ml containers - larger containers, even partly full, are not usually accepted at security
- All 100ml containers must fit into a clear, plastic bag no bigger than 20cm x 20cm
- 1 bag per passenger.
- The bag has to be able to close and be sealed - overstuffed plastic bags will not be accepted
- The maximum amount of liquid in total that you can carry onto a flight is 1 litre
- All Bags must be shown at airport security

The following exceptions may be made to the 100ml rule:

- Baby food or baby milk: breast milk can be carried in the cabin; when it is stored in a clear, transparent container or bag. Flasks cannot be permitted. The volume of each container / bag should not exceed 2litres. Breast milk should be in a liquid format and not frozen. When travelling without an infant only breast milk can be carried in quantities greater than 100ml, this does not apply to formula milk or other baby juice / food. (You can also now pre-order from some Airport Chemists - baby milk, foods, nappies etc to be picked up after Security Checkpoints to take away some of the hassle!)
- Liquid medicines: You are only permitted to carry quantities of liquid medication in excess of your personal liquid allowance where it is needed during the course of your flight. All medication should be accompanied by documentary proof of authenticity, such as a prescription or letter from a medical practitioner confirming that you need them for your journey. Liquid medication that is not required on the flight should be carried as hold luggage

Sharps - The simple rule on sharps is – if it's sharp put it in your hold bag or don't take it with you!

CUSTOMS RESTRICTIONS – Always check on what you can and cannot take into a country. From ham sandwiches to chewing gum, muddy boots to too much tobacco/alcohol, some country – somewhere bans each of these at the point of entry and much more! Make sure you don't get fined or worse on your arrival by checking on the restrictions BEFORE you travel.

DAMAGED LUGGAGE – Remember to carefully examine your hold luggage when you retrieve it from the carousel and report any damage/tampering BEFORE you leave the baggage area. They will not accept a report at any stage later.

TRANSFERS – Your Voucher will show exact details of how to find your transfer company. Make sure to read it carefully as with most companies you need to re-confirm your return pick up time locally. If you don't you could be left waiting/miss your flight back. Always have a copy available to give to your driver as proof of pickup.

CAR HIRE – Your Voucher states the lead driver, outlines where you go to collect your car on your arrival, plus the length and type of hire. All the other terms and conditions are included in accompanying paper work. Make sure you read them carefully before you travel or you could be heading for trouble. Don't forget your Driving Licence, a CREDIT (not Debit) card in the name of the lead driver and beware of up-selling by the local sales staff who work on commission! You may also need to produce a DVLA code to prove the current state of your licence – make sure you check BEFORE you travel -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiring-a-vehicle>

ACCOMMODATION - Many people think the room they are allocated on arrival is their room and of course it's not. It's just a room! If whatever reason you're not happy with yours then please ask nicely if you can move to another. Usually if they have availability they will happily do so. Your Voucher will show a local contact number for any problem you may encounter.

EMERGENCY CONTACT – If you have any problems whilst abroad don't hesitate to ring us ANYTIME on the Office No +44 (0) 1422 847 847. Out of Office Hours the answer phone message gives the Mobile No you need to ring for urgent contact with whoever is on call. We're here to make sure you have a lovely time and all goes smoothly! Ring us if you have a problem that can't be resolved locally!

FEEDBACK FORM – On your return you will be receiving a feedback form asking you to share your experiences and photos and in return be entered for a FREE Monthly Prize Draw! We hope you'll take part. In the meantime have a wonderful time!