

Travel via the Moon

Just a couple days away from getting on that plane and enjoying that long-awaited (and planned) vacation? To insure they don't charge you if you couldn't get there because of health reasons or some other emergency, you didn't make that hotel reservation until now. And you were lucky enough to find a hotel in one of your cities that has given you the option of paying a little more *but includes* at that extra price, the entrance to the more exclusive 24hr snack/lite-meal room and free drinks open only to *special* guests who are paying a little more than the standard rate. This service is *only* a consideration if you're at this hotel three or more days. A micro-wave and small fridge in the room is a common higher-priced hotel accommodation that will do nearly the same for snack meals or snacks. When you're making that reservation on the computer, just check out their e-mail address and send them an email asking if your room has a microwave & fridge. If not, query the extra room for "select" guests that have free snacks/lite-meals and the additional cost. Fridge and microwave mean you will want to go out to a local grocery store and get some of those goodies for your in-room meal, and **always shop at the grocery store that offers a carry-out bag with *the grocery store's name on it***. Potential crooks are not looking or as interested in local people as they are for tourists.

Ever walk around town (even at home) and all of a sudden you have to find a restroom? You'll find that in many of the larger cities in other countries, you will have those "public toilets"....and they charge to use them. A couple of solutions to this "gotta-go" urge is ... if you're neatly dressed, you can usually walk into the lobby of most hotels (just like you're a resident there) and find a bathroom in the lobby...or, you see a *McDonald's* or other fast-food restaurant, just open the door and walk in, and there will usually be a restroom there...if you feel obligated you can always buy something to go.

Are you packing a **health kit** to take along, either in your carry-on bag or your suitcase. Stock up in a water-proof bag some band-aids, pain-killer pills, maybe a bacterial-cream and **your daily medications**. Since most pills you take have different shapes/colors, group all the morning pills in one larger empty pill bottle and mark AM. Do the same with evening pills and mark that bottle PM.

Take 2-3 days *extra* along in each of the bottles. And of course you *do have all of your medications (and your spouses)* written down on paper and in your wallet (your spouse has that list too in her purse). You carry your meds in your *carry-on bag*...**NOT** the suitcase...you'll be going to the nearest pharmacy if your suitcase is lost or missing.

Taking my computer so all of the above info you have with you? Really, do you need that computer on this trip?

Leave it at home. The old "paper-print" for your itinerary, address-book, and references are just as good as carrying that computer (particularly if you don't have a protected and secured bag).

Finally, **travel insurance**. If you use it, get it thru someone other than the company you're traveling with. If your travel company goes bankrupt, your insurance does too. Check www.travelguard.com for a list of those who offer travel insurance. A \$2000 trip for a 30yr old may cost 80 bucks; but for a 65 old traveler, that same trip may cost double. Who cares...you're going and you will. **Enjoy.**