

Donna's Global Travel Hacks

1. Pack your bag with clothing you think you need. Then take out half.
2. Pack an empty water canister to avoid high water bottle costs when traveling.
3. Pack a universal adapter
4. Use apps to look for local tips: hip bars, things to do from a local's perspective (tinder, FB)
5. Ear plugs
6. Apps to help sleep such as the App "White Noise".
7. Hotels will hold larger packed bags and let you borrow smaller luggage to tour within other areas of the country. Freeing you up from lugging all your items everywhere.
8. If you can use only a hand luggage that would be optimal to avoid baggage fees and having to check a bag and wait for it to come off plane.
9. Avoid Europe during the summer. You will pay four times more.
10. Check Taxi prices before arriving at the airport. Check app that you can use.
11. Airport lounges (priority pass and united) can end up saving you lots of money even with the fees if you fly enough. It also provides peace of mind and a better experience while traveling. You can arrive early and it breaks up the monotony of waiting in an airport for hours before your flight leaves.
12. Always have a back of money in a separate location when traveling in case you lose your wallet. Perhaps \$100.
13. Copy of passport on your phone. Create a digital folder for easy access. Also as proof at the embassy if you lose it. Add 4 passport photos in your bag to make it easier to get an emergency passport. Overseas facilities do not have this capability so be prepared to have your own.
14. Compare AirBnB vs. Booking.com Hotels.
15. Download a conversion app before traveling.
16. Credit cards are great for insurance. (Points, insurance, upgrading seats)
17. Stock up on antibiotics. When you are in a place when you can get antibiotics without a prescription it is a good idea to buy some in this case. Some countries will not allow you to buy antibiotics if you are not a citizen and would be hard to get them when needed in that case. And know where the local clinics are wherever you go ahead of time.
18. E-SiMS
19. Pack your bag the same way every time. Makes it easier to know where things are each time.
20. Carry a pen. You need it for customs forms. Don't be that person who has to borrow someone else's pen and then forgets to give it back. But you could bring an extra for that person.
21. Dress in loose clothing when traveling. Women's stretch comfortable yoga pants with side pockets are a great place to hold phones.
22. Travel with a power bank in that case you need a little extra power to get you to the next time you can fully charge.
23. Take a picture of your barcode or electronic ticket and store in your album files on phone. That way if you are unable to connect to the internet for some reason, you can still pull up your ticket.
24. Keep back up emergency coffee or tea in your bag that you can collect from hotels that you stay at. If you are anything like me, not having your vices may interfere with your experiences.
25. Keep back up credit card in your bag in case of emergency. Or you lose your wallet.
26. Use apps like whatsapp in order to communicate and to make phone calls free. No need to add international usage with phone company that way.
27. Learn how to use a VPN (virtual private network). Sign up when you need it. Certain countries will block certain apps. This allows you to still be able to use them. Will be great in time of need. You can apply and use the free trial period and then cancel.
28. Bring sunscreen packets and wear a shirt when swimming or snorkeling. You get an abundance of harmful rays in airplanes.
29. Consider the apple tracking disks that you can place in your bag.

30. Pack Tide stain sticks
31. Take a picture of your bag to be able to show airport agent
32. GPS tracker for suitcase. Works for up to 6 days. Or my recommendation is the apple disks. As far as I can tell they last forever.
33. Write down the consulate phone number and hotel of where you will stay on paper

Airport Hacks

1. Don't check a bag if possible. Learn to travel light. Too many times my bag arrives after me and if you aren't staying at that first hotel long your bag will need to catch up to where you are. This happened to me in Serbia on a Trade Mission. Was without my suitcase for 3 days.
2. Sign up for frequent flyer accounts. Using miles for purchase future trips. You earn airline miles when you book cars, hotels, airbnbs.
3. Priority Pass: lounge passes and free food. Helps you enjoy the experience of traveling.
4. Google Skyscanner and momondo to search low fares.
5. Private browser windows when searching flights inognito move first.
6. Search for flexible flights (on google tab go to the "explore" tab) and SkyScanner you could search "everywhere" and it will show you rates all over the world. And on most airline websites check the tab that says my dates are flexible.
7. Check on low peak times
8. Check one way when flying domestically and round trip internationally
9. International can include a domestic flight in country instead of going hub to hub. It can save you 2/3rds the price.
10. Travel during off peak seasons when can and also choose week days like Tuesday or Wednesday instead of weekends when possible.
11. Check local taxi apps. Ecabs in Molto or Mycar in Malaysia.
12. Avoid changing money at the airport
13. Book the first flight to the destination instead of later in the day on domestic flights
14. Special meals are offered on each airline and usually they get served before others and many times better than what is offered to all.
15. Download each airlines apps. As an example, you can only watch United movies from your App if there isn't a TV on the plane. Also provides the most up-to-date flight info.
16. Make sure you are logged onto your account when you book your flight so that your saved info such as passport and multi-miles are added to your ticket purchase.
17. Wearing scarves are good for cold airplanes and airports. And can be a make-shift pillow. Scarves are just a must have in my world.
18. Compression socks on very long flights are a good idea.
19. Bring melatonin pills, ear plugs, headphones that are noise canceling, Nyquil. Try to sleep after the first meal and use your normal protocol to do so. For me that is the assistance of melatonin or Nyquil.
20. Planes are dry: wear glasses instead of contacts, wear lotion on hands and face and reapply often
21. Tape your contact info on your phone, ipad or laptop in case you leave it behind in a place like the security baggage screening area.
22. Ask for a fragile sticker. Your luggage will be put on top of all the other luggage and usually you will get it first.
23. Go to the left when you are walking through the airport security. Most people tend to go thru the right.
24. Utilize lounges free wifi without going into a lounge by going on to the website by using "fox nomads" blog where he has collected passwords from lounges all over the worlds.
25. At airport lost and found they may have free chargers that they can give you if someone hasn't picked something up in 90 days.
26. Download series shows and movies off-line from Netflix and Prime video.

27. If you have a duty free bag from an airport, chances are they won't count that as part of the weight of your luggage since it is assumed you purchased that from the airport.
28. Bring a luggage scale.
29. Use a luggage J hook to help organize your baggage for ease of transport.

How to use Travel Cards:

Apps:

1. Trail Wallet and Trip Coin helps to budget trip
2. Splitwise helps in group travel
3. Hotwire and hotels tonight for last minute deals
4. www.tripping.com
5. Local classified sites instead of Airbnb
6. Facebook groups for ideas on what to do and where to stay
7. Flight Aware App: Let's you know up-to-date flight info on any plane.

Travel tips that save money:

1. Stay in suburbs
2. Book weekly instead of nightly
3. Avoid resort fees and parking fees
4. In large groups consider staying together and renting a villa
5. Refillable water bottle
6. Water filter or purification tablets
7. Avoid mini bar. Buy a bottle wine or drinks at market and then bring back to room
8. Make lunch the main meal
9. Bring your own bag for grocery shopping when at markets in overseas. They do not have plastic bags in many cases or will charge you for each one
10. Do the free walking tour on the first day in the place you stay because it gives you the lay of the land and also a great way to get other ideas of what to do from others.
11. Many museums may have free entry. Check trip adviser
12. Turn off roaming and use local sim cards
13. Travel with people who have way less money than you do.
14. Slow travel. Live like a local instead of a tourist.
15. Buy smaller things.
16. Travel Medical Insurance: Safety Wing: They also have long-term remote insurance. Could be as little as \$40 a month. <https://safetywing.com/>
17. Negotiate everything