



## Chosen your next destination? Here's our 10 expert travel tips before you go

There's nothing more exciting than planning your next big travel adventure. (Except, of course, *going* on your next big travel adventure.)

And we know it's easy to miss a few key details! So together we've compiled our top 10 list of travel tips. To help ensure your trip is as smooth as silk – whether you're a seasoned globe-trotter or first-time wanderer.

### TIP 1: Be smart about what day you fly

You may think every day is a great day to travel. Well, so do we! But there are smarter and *cheaper* days to fly.

The cheapest days to catch a plane are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. And the best time to book for the cheapest flights? That's Tuesday, 12 am through to Wednesday, 11 pm.

### TIP 2: Get this app if you suffer from jetlag

Ah, Jetlag. Travel's downside. But like most things these days, there's an app to help.

[Time Shifter](#) is a scientifically developed sleep app that can help you prevent jetlag. How, you ask? With a specific sleep, sunlight and caffeine plan leading up to your trip. It's based on your routine sleep patterns, gender, chronotype (are you an owl or a lark?) and travel itinerary. So you can sleep less and enjoy your destination more.

### TIP 3: Stay informed with your phone

We know your smartphone is your ultimate travel companion. But have you got the ultimate travel apps?

Here are a few we couldn't live without:

- **Maps.me:** Never get lost again with downloadable maps! You can download them when you've got a connection and use them without WIFI. It's a miracle.
- **Google Translate:** An old favourite, this translator is surprisingly accurate and will keep you in communication with locals. Best of all? You can download languages and use them offline.
- **XE Currency:** Keeping up with currency conversions can hurt your head – and your wallet. A currency conversion app will keep you money savvy, and knowing how much you really paid for that perfect souvenir. We like XE Currency's simple user experience.

### TIP 4: Stay connected for less

Leaving for the world but still wanting to stay in touch with those at home – without having to mortgage the house?

Firstly, we recommend you check with your local provider on their global roaming packages. If you want to explore other options and your phone has a dual SIM, most international airports will have an official phone company kiosk where you can buy a local SIM on arrival.

If your phone isn't a dual SIM, then you may be able to use an eSIM. An eSIM is a digital SIM card that allows you to activate a cellular plan without a physical SIM card. Cool, hey? This can be especially useful when travelling internationally because you can easily switch between different carrier plans without having to swap out SIM cards physically.

For all the drill on eSIMs If you're an iPhone user, [Apple has conveniently explained how to buy, activate and use an eSIM internationally.](#)

If you're an Android user, [this guide can help you.](#)

Now you're ready to phone home!

### **TIP 5: Visit your doctor before you leave**

Doctors and travel clinics just know things. See yours a few weeks before you travel to ensure you're up to date with the required vaccinations and recommended medications for your destination- and buy them! Store meds and any scripts in your hand luggage in case of lost baggage or delays.

Oh, and now that we live in a Covid-is-here-to-stay world, pack a couple of RAT tests and medical masks.

### **TIP 6: Pack light. Pack smart!**

One of the greatest challenges for all travellers is what to pack.

Start by researching your destination's weather, dress codes and dress etiquette. Apps like [PackPoint](#) and [Packr](#) can be helpful here. And when you're planning your clothes, remember that versatility is key.

We recommend you pack a pair of comfortable slip-on/slip-off shoes. It is especially helpful for passing through airport security, visiting cultural buildings, temples and mosques, visiting homes where it's customary to remove shoes before entering, and even for walking on the beach.

Now you've chosen what to bring, stock up on packing cubes. Readily available at Kmart and the like, they organise your clothes, keep them wrinkle-free, and maximise your packing space. Genius.

Finally, don't forget your universal adaptor and chargers. Oh, and if you have a power bank remember it must travel in your hand luggage.

### **TIP 7: Make copies of your documents**

Yes, there's the business of travel before you travel.

Before you leave, make digital or paper copies of your important documents. This includes your passport, itinerary, flight details, and any medical documents you may have. Keep one copy for you – and give one to a trusted person at home. And don't forget your travel insurance! Which we hope they will never have to use.

### **TIP 8: Use a dedicated travel card**

Banks love charging hidden fees. We recommend you research a dedicated travel card to use while you're away. WISE debit card is one such card. Now available in Australia, you can apply easily online, get both a physical and digital card and load numerous currencies onto it. Cash withdrawals at ATMs are very competitive, and using your card on purchases in local currency can be significantly cheaper compared to using a regular bank debit card. For more information visit [www.wise.com](http://www.wise.com)



Don't forget too, to advise your bank of your travel plans to help avoid any issues with your credit or debit cards. Afterall, you don't want to be washing dinner dishes in lieu of a failed card payment!

**TIP 8: Take a photo of your airport car park**

Know the old adage, 'A stitch in time saves nine'?

This couldn't be truer at the airport car park.

Take a photo of your parking spot before leaving your car. It's the ultimate 'Where did I park?' solution. You're welcome.

**TIP 9: Pack Ziploc bags**

Sometimes, plastic can be, well... fantastic.

Carry a few spare Ziploc bags for unexpected uses. Heading to the beach and need to protect your phone or camera from the sand? Ziploc it. Caught in wet weather without a waterproof case? Save your passport and Ziploc it. Hot and sweaty travelling and don't want your cash to be sopping? Ziploc it. Want to save the pastries from the buffet breakfast for later? Ziplock it.

Yes. Zip it. Zip it good.

**TIP 10: Don't lock and leave. Remember your treasures!**

Many hotels have safes for your valuables.

To ensure you don't forget them, put something in your safe that you'll obviously need before heading out for the day, or moving on to the next place. Like your shoe!

**BONUS TIP: Not just a travel hack. A life hack!**

If you ever find yourself with a new bottle of wine but no corkscrew, here's what to do.

(Yes, we have needed this in the past.)

1. Un-collar the bottle, ensuring the cork is fully exposed.
2. Stand the bottle upright, in the heel of a shoe with a hard sole and sturdy side. A dress shoe is ideal.
3. Find a brick or stone wall.
4. Hold the neck of the wine bottle firmly. Now tilt the shoe so that the heel can be banged against the wall with force while firmly holding the wine bottle.
5. Watch as the cork begins to slide out with each bang of the shoe against the wall. (It's physics!)
6. Once the cork is out about halfway, stop banging. Remove the wine bottle from the shoe and wiggle the cork the rest of the way out with your hands.
7. Pour. Toast. Celebrate!

*Bon Voyage,*

From Steve & Bronny - Byroads

