

TIPS ON TRIPS

Tips On Taking Your Laptop Along

(NAPSA)—For a growing number of travelers, laptop computers have become an essential part of their travel gear.

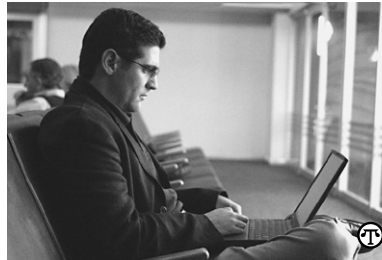
Whether it's a working vacation or having the capacity to go online while on the road, people are lugging their laptops along.

However, losing your computer to theft or damage can make for a very expensive vacation. Here are some tips on how to keep that laptop safe and secure while on the road:

- Watch for delays at the conveyor belt leading to the metal detector. It may be a sign that thieves are trying to hold up the line or cause a distraction.
- Consider disguising your laptop in a modified backpack instead of a standard carrying case.
- Include your laptop as part of your carry-on luggage. This avoids overzealous baggage handlers.
- Stowing your laptop in the overhead bin is inviting disaster. It can be damaged by falling out or end up hitting someone. Keep it under your seat.

Tré Hartgrove of Compaq Factory Outlet, which is run by Compaq Computer Corporation, offers a few more tips on how to keep your laptop up and running:

- Purchase more than one battery and have a routine for keeping all of them fully charged.
- If you are headed for foreign



Protect your laptop when traveling by following a few simple tips.

countries, remember you may need to take along electrical and phone adapters made for foreign systems.

- Try not to use your laptop in wet weather—like rain or snow—or around loose dirt or sand. If you must use it while in such a situation, try wrapping it in household plastic wrap. That way it's protected and you can still see the keys.

- Don't expose laptops to extreme temperatures—either hot or cold. The processor and other parts can easily be damaged.

- Reduce your financial exposure by getting the best deal possible when you purchase your laptop. One way is to shop at a computer outlet store.

According to Hartgrove, "At Compaq Factory Outlet, a laptop can be purchased for about half the price charged in a retail store."

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.compaqfactoryoutlet.com or call 1-888-215-8864.