TIPS ON TRIPS

Keeping Romance Alive While On The Road

(NAPSA)—For many U.S. workers, traveling is serious business. Americans take over 200 million business trips each year, with each lasting an average of three and a half days, according to the Travel Industry Association. Because 75 percent of these are solo trips, experts suggest a lot of business travelers' relationships may suffer from anxiety caused by separation.

Being away on business, however, doesn't have to spell the end to romance.

Business travelers employ a variety of methods to stay in touch with loved ones while they're on the road—whether it's whispering sweet nothings over an airphone mid-flight, sending heartfelt e-mails or simply bringing significant others along.

Joanie Flynn, vice president of leisure marketing for Hilton Hotels Corporation, has helped travelers plan getaways for more than 18 years. Following are some of her tips for keeping romance alive while on the road:

- Update the age-old love letter for the 21st century by penning a love e-mail or, even better, jotting down a hand-written missive and sending it via fax.
- Pick up a small gift for your loved one during your travels. Whether it's a good book, a box of chocolates or a set of coasters from the airport gift shop, your partner will know you were thinking of him or her while you were away.



Business travelers can employ some romantic methods of showing loved ones they care.

- Consider extending a business trip and arranging for your loved one to join you for a long weekend. Look for hotels with special packages that include romantic touches. For example, Hilton, Doubletree, Hilton Garden Inn and Conrad hotels offer romance packages that include upgraded accommodations, early check-in and late check-out, a bottle of champagne upon arrival and breakfast in bed.
- Think of every day as having potential for romance. Make a "date" to talk on the phone at a specific time each evening. Leave small notes in unexpected places for your significant other to find when you're gone.

For more information, visit www.hilton.com/romance or call 1-800-HILTONS.