



Tips On Trips

Insider Travel Tips

(NAPSA)—The peak travel season is upon us. To make your travels easier and more enjoyable, the globe-trotting editors at Fodors.com (www.fodors.com), a full-service online travel site, have developed the following tips.

Planning Your Trip:

- **Use a full-service Web site.** The best sites allow you to research, plan and book your vacation without surfing from one site to the next. Use sites that offer a wireless service (for PDAs and cell phones) so that you can access travel content on the go—from wherever you are.

- **Participate in travel discussion groups.** Savvy travelers swap stories and advice on Web discussion groups. You can get lodging, restaurant and sightseeing recommendations, discover what's new in a destination, or ask locals for directions.

- **Pack light and use plastic.** Before you travel, lay out everything you think you'll need for your trip. Then pack half the items. Spread dry-cleaning plastic bags over your clothes as you fill the suitcase. Using bags helps to prevent major creases and helps to protect items from spills.

Making Your Reservations:

- **Read the fine print.** Some online booking services add charges or taxes to your fare or offer alternative airports "near" a destination that are hours away.

- **Book the back.** If you travel in coach with carry-on items only and know your flight will be crowded, book a seat toward the rear of the plane to ensure that you're among the first to board. That way you won't be stuck having to check one of your bags because there's no place to put it.

- **Check that rate one last time.** Shortly before you arrive at your hotel, call the front desk (not the 800 number) and ask what the best rate is. If the place isn't full,



Take time to enjoy a sight-seeing adventure like this couple in Hawaii.

the rate might be better than your original one.

Enjoying Your Trip:

- **Feel special.** Vegetarian, sodium-free, kosher and other special meals are usually better than the fare airlines serve the economy-class masses—and they're often delivered before the other meals.

- **Hit the (side) streets.** Explore restaurants away from a city's main square, where you might pay too much for subpar tourist-trap cuisine. Walking even a couple of blocks can increase your enjoyment—and reduce your bill.

- **Find out what the locals are up to.** Search local newspapers and magazines to see what events locals are attending.

- **Keep those bags in sight.** Never let your bags out of your sight, not even for an instant. Many people make this mistake and never see their bags again.

- **Do the twistie.** Use garbage-bag ties to secure the zips (as well as locks) on your luggage. This measure annoys and may deter a potential thief.

For more travel tips, visit Fodors.com (www.fodors.com).