

Section 1: Preparing for the Trip

- When developing your itinerary, ask for travel brochures that will provide hotel and restaurant accommodations and sightseeing itineraries. This is how you can mimic vacation packages of expensive travel agencies for a fraction of the cost. The local Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) or Office of Tourism should be able to help with this as well.
- Before travelling to any city, do a search on the internet of the city name and word “coupon” (“Provo coupon”). Or check out the local CVB website for quick listings of coupons and free things to do in the area.
- Once you know where you are going, divide up the list of things you want to do and put someone in charge of each item on the list. This is also a great way to get teenagers excited about the trip, by asking them to research group activities they want to do on the vacation.
- Pay close attention to those newsletters enclosed in your frequent flier statements. They usually contain special offers and promotions that can earn you double or triple miles if you stay at a certain hotel or eat at a certain restaurant.
- This helpful website (biddingfortravel.com) gives potential bidders an idea of prices that are being accepted and declined on priceline.com for hotel, rental car rates, etc.
- Before leaving for a vacation, print out all reservations and directions, and create a contact sheet for emergencies. Place everything in one bright colored folder. Another recommendation is to place all of the important information on a flash drive or USB drive that is password protected. A third idea is to email this information to yourself so that you could easily access it while away from home if needed.
- If you want to stay on a travel budget, split each day’s spending cash into separate envelopes, one per day.
- Email your itinerary, including flights, hotels and confirmation numbers, to yourself and to family members. If your luggage is lost or wallets are stolen, all of this essential information is just a click or phone call away.
- If you are traveling to a foreign country, make sure that any money you plan on exchanging is absolutely crisp and clean because often banks won’t take bills with writing or damage.
- It is often cheaper to book hotel rooms online instead of calling over the phone. Look on the site for its “Web only” rate.
- Check out YouTube.com and Flickr.com to get ideas and see photos and videos of possible vacation destinations.
- Set a trip allowance for each child so that when they want to buy something, they know how much money they have left.