

## Essential Travel Tips

# How to Care for Your Luggage

### 1 / Start With the Right Luggage

- 1) Choose one that meets your travel needs. Consider the material used and features available.
- 2) Avoid cheap luggage and risk its falling apart from airport handling. Avoid designer/expensive luggage as it attracts attention. A sensible, sturdy, medium priced luggage is the best.
- 3) Consider replacing old/worn luggage. Old luggage may not be able to withstand today's automated luggage handling systems.
- 4) If you are a frequent traveller, consider selecting luggages with worldwide and/or lifetime warranty.

### 2 / When Checking In Luggage

- 1) Check in luggage that is sturdy enough to withstand airline baggage handling systems.
- 2) Never check in a bag that has broken components such as wheels, handles, zippers, latches and locks.
- 3) Never check in a carry-on luggage. Most briefcases, tote bags, plastic garment covers are not designed to survive check in handling.
- 4) Remove all pull-straps to prevent it from catching onto other objects and going missing.
- 5) Check in personally.
- 6) If necessary, protect your luggage with a luggage cover.

### 3 / Tips on Caring For Your Luggage

- 1) Always keep in mind that whenever you have to use some chemicals in cleaning your luggage bags, read the instruction manual before starting the cleaning process.
- 2) Always use mild soaps. Using soaps that contain very harsh chemicals could only destroy the natural brilliance and beauty of the luggage bag. It is best to use soaps that are proven to be mild and without any harmful chemicals.
- 3) Never drench the luggage bag. Keep in mind not to soak the material. It is also best to clean the whole section and not just the dirty part.

### 4 / Just Before You Leave Home

- 1) Always place an ID tag on all luggages; include your hand-carry bag, backpack, briefcase etc.
- 2) Put your business address/next destination's address with a contactable phone number.
- 3) Always lock luggage, to discourage theft and prevent breakage during handling.
- 4) Buy small locks to lock all external zipper pockets of bags.
- 5) Buy sturdy, lockable luggage straps to strap around the girth of your luggage to keep them closed and for identification purposes.
- 6) Keep a count of the total pieces of luggages you bring along.

### 5 / Before Leaving the Airport

Check your bag carefully in the baggage claims area. Other travellers may have checked in exactly similar luggage as you. Report any damage immediately to the baggage service centre of the airline on which you travelled.