



Travel Safety Tips



How to Prevent Missing Baggage

It is estimated that two million bags cruise through airport carousels each day, with only a small percentage of these being 'mishandled' or routed to the wrong airport. Majority of bags are returned to their rightful owner within 24 hours. But still, loss does occur and it's well worth the effort to try to minimize the chances that your bag will be lost or misdirected.

1 / How Do Bags Get Lost or Left Behind?

The baggage handling system is complicated. Anything can go wrong! However, here are some common reasons why bags get damaged or delayed:

- **Tight connections**
Give yourself at least an hour to reach a connecting flight.
- **Bag jams**
Sometimes a bag will get stuck on a conveyor belt, causing a blockage.
- **Bag switches**
Someone doesn't pay attention and runs off with your bag by mistake.
- **Late check-ins**
Because the bag was checked in late, the airline didn't have time to get it to the airplane.
- **Full flight**
There may not be room for all of them if a lot of people are flying.
- **Missing tags**
Sometimes the bag tag gets torn off when it goes through the conveyor belt system. Without it, airline employees can't determine where your bag needs to go.

/ Forward Your Bag

If you can afford it, you could always use a luggage forwarding service to have your bag picked up and delivered to your destination. It will likely cost more than USD\$100, but well worth it depending on your circumstances. Do an online search for "luggage delivery" and you'll find companies that specialize in this.

2 / How to Avoid the Situation

- Always carry-on your luggage whenever possible. That's the only way to guarantee that the airline won't mishandle your bag.
- Place the appropriate identification tags with contacts on all your bags.
- Add a colourful sticker or ribbon to your bag to distinguish it from the others.
- When making your reservations, avoid changing airlines or reserving flights with connections. The more complicated your itinerary, the more likely your bags will get lost in the shuffle. Obtain a claim check and verify that the tags you have been given is correct.
- Purchase luggage with unusual colour for easier identification.