



Toolie's Travel Newsletter

August 2004

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Web Seminar on International Travel

Toolie the Travel Guide™ is conducting a Web Seminar on "What You Need to Know to Travel Internationally." This detailed presentation walks you through preparations for traveling outside the country.

Whether you are about to leave for your international trip, or your trip is months away, the information in this seminar can help you avoid common mistakes that could cost you time and money. The next scheduled seminar is August 19, 2004 at 11 a.m. Pacific time, and this session will be recorded. Click the links below to sign up on the WebEx Live web site or visit <http://www.tooliethetravelguide.com/speeches.html>.

Thursday August 19 --
11:00 a.m. PDT (2:00 EDT)
(35 seats)

<https://webexlive.webex.com/webexlive/tool/meeting/workshopinfo.php?ConfID=290088495>

P.S. Forward this email to your friends so they can participate too!

This Month's Travel Tip: The Comfort of a Routine

I absolutely love to travel. I love the change of pace, I love the variety, and I love experiencing new places. The downside of traveling is that there are plenty of opportunities to leave valued possessions behind as you move around. Successful travelers develop routines that they follow in all phases of their travel which ensure that they "keep it together" as they travel. Here are two examples from my recent travels to illustrate the point.

Adding or Subtracting from Your Usual Stuff

I recently bought my dream camera in preparation for starting my collection of stock photos to sell. I had a business trip to San Francisco to take shortly after the camera arrived, so I brought the camera and all of its accessories along. I had owned the camera for only a couple of weeks, but I was familiar with all the pieces and was confident that I could wrangle everything into the new camera bag on this trip. I was, however, still experimenting with distributing the accessories between my checked bags and the carry-on camera bag, trying to figure out what I would need with me as I moved about the city.

In San Francisco, I gleefully rode in a Cable Car, a taxi, a bus, and drove a rental car with my new camera strapped to my person, taking pictures along the way. That night I hooked up the camera to the AC power using the adapter, and experimented with various settings. I wrapped up the cords and tucked everything away, and that was the last time I saw the AC adapter cord. Somehow, I managed to leave the half of the cord that plugs into the camera in my hotel room. When I got home and realized the cord was not where it should be, I searched every backpack and suitcase I had with me (and several I didn't take along) with no luck. My lack of routine around the camera and its accessories cost me a hefty \$62 -- the price of replacing the half of the AC adapter cord that has that big block on it. Ouch. It seemed so unfair -- I had just gotten the darned thing. Yes! My point exactly! I realized then how much I rely on my own routines to keep from leaving things behind.

You've Been Selected for Additional Screening

I admit freely that I Am The Gadget Lady. I can't tell you now many times I have been "selected for additional screening" at Airport Security because of the interesting contents of my carry-on bags. In anticipation of that lovely experience, I've developed a consistent order in which I put my bags through the X-Ray machine, and it has so far not annoyed the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) staff.

I think of it this way: what item do I have with me that would most gravely destroy my business trip if I lost it? Easy, the answer is my laptop. Consequently, my laptop is the last thing I submit for X-Ray, and I politely wait for it to disappear into the machine before I step through the metal detector. Either my shoes and purse go through first, or my briefcase does, then my laptop goes through last. I kinda stand to one side so that I can see the first items come out the other side, then I step through the metal detector when the laptop goes into the X-ray machine. The annoyance on the part of the TSA staff appears only if I forget to explain what

I'm doing! Most are patient while I execute this little routine, and I am more comfortable knowing that no one is going to reach into the machine to pull out my laptop when I'm not looking.

As for the review of my gadget collection (well, they call it "additional screening"), I'm taking fewer gadgets along if I can do without them -- or I put them in my checked bags. If I do cause the metal detector to beep as I step through, I insist on keeping my eyes on my possessions while they use the portable unit (the "wand") to complete the screening. I have annoyed a few TSA personnel that don't appreciate my laptop as much as I do, but so far not enough to have been a problem.

Moral of these stories? If you don't have routines, start working on them. This principle applies to the toiletries you pack, the shoes you wear on the plane (I know mine have steel in them, so I take them off at Security), the contents of your carry-on bag, and even where you put your keys on the dresser in your hotel room. As a traveler, you have enough to think about without burdening yourself with activities that could instead be second nature because you've developed a routine around them.

[Toolie Speaks at the National Speakers Association National Convention](#)

Toolie spoke at the NSA National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona on July 17th to the Technology Professional Emphasis Group on "Using Web Seminars to Expand Your Business." Toolie has developed a coaching program for speakers who are interested in developing their material for a web seminar environment. Anyone considering using WebEx to deliver content is invited to participate in this program. You can find further details at <http://www.tooliethetravelguide.com/webex.html>.

[Toolie Travel Survey for 2004 Extended to August 31st](#)

We have extended closing date for our annual survey of travel habits The Toolie Travel Survey to August 31, 2004. This year's survey results are being used to shape the development of the Toolie Travel Guides™ that are due to be published in 2005. If you have not already participated, please visit the link below. Please also forward this email to qualified business travelers and encourage them to participate.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=78464507604>

[Upcoming Presentations](#)

Toolie will be presenting at the Northwest Chapter meeting of the National Speakers Association in Bellevue on November 13, 2004 on the subject of "Turning Travel Time into Up-Time." Guests can attend this presentation by signing up at the NSA Northwest website <http://www.nsanorthwest.org/events/index.html> in October. We'll remind about this event in upcoming newsletters.

[The Toolie Access Guides™](#)

The first round of Toolie Access Guides™ is currently in development, including Atlanta, Orlando, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, Paris, and London. These downloadable electronic guides will be distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) are written specifically to meet the needs of business travelers. Unlike guides written for the leisure market, Toolie Access Guides provide information by city about airports, transit, convention centers, areas of commerce, wireless Internet access ("hotspots"), support services such as office supply and shipping, and other helpful information business travelers need to get their jobs done while on the road. The first guides are due to be released around October 1, 2004. You can read more about them at <http://www.tooliethetravelguide.com/accessguides.html>.

If you have a city or cities for which you need guides written, please send your suggestions to JocelynG@ToolieTheTravelGuide.com. Toolie can also provide custom guides written for your convention center, your corporation, or your event, large or small. Contact JocelynG@ToolieTheTravelGuide.com for more information.

[Toolie's Travel Plans](#)

In August, Toolie will be visiting Chicago and Los Angeles to complete research for the Toolie Access Guides™ for those cities. In September, you'll find Toolie in Durham for a conference, and then London to complete travel guide research there. Next stop is Paris, France, for research, then a quick trip to Dusseldorf to attend the Business Travel Show http://www.businesstravelshow.de/visiting_e.html and meet with business travel buyers there. As always, Toolie is available by email whenever she's on the road. You can reach her at JocelynG@ToolieTheTravelGuide.com.