



2009 Travel Tips

1. **Be Respectful!**

Everyone is on their Grad Trip to have a great time, but please be respectful of those around you, especially the people of the country you are visiting. You are a guest in a foreign country that has different customs and traditions. Be patient. Respect others and they will respect you back. Screaming and yelling will get you nowhere fast!

2. **Be Smart!**

Scam artists and thieves prey on people in airports and tourist destinations. Do not leave your luggage and carryon items unattended at any time! Do not pack your valuables (cameras, jewelry, cash, keys) in your checked-in luggage! Do not go anywhere you wouldn't go at home (stranger's car, dark alley, deserted parks, etc.).

3. **Do It Our Way!**

Only purchase side excursions and party programs from Grad Week approved vendors or ground operators (see your destination guide available upon arrival). We cannot help you if you have problems with side excursions not purchased through Grad Week.

4. **Stay Out of Trouble!**

Foreign countries have different laws and a different legal system. The last thing we, your parents, and especially you, want, is to be arrested. You can avoid this by refraining from the following inappropriate things: expressing obscene phrases or gestures to any person, disorderly conduct, property damage (includes your hotel room!) introduction, purchase, possession and/or consumption of drugs (yes, drugs are illegal in both Mexico and the Bahamas). As a general rule of thumb, if you wouldn't do it in your parent's house, don't try it in a foreign country!

5. **Safety in Numbers!**

Whenever possible, travel in groups! Never use taxicabs alone or walk home alone!

6. **Use your Hotel's Safety Deposit Box!**

Store your money, passport, airline tickets, and other valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box or in-room safe. Upon checking into your room, look around for any damaged or missing items and report them to the front desk. You will be charged for damaged items at check-out. A little precaution will go a long way in making your trip problem free.

7. **Get this Party started!**

If you are looking for the place to be at any time during your Grad Trip, you only need to look inside the enclosed Action Pac brochure for all the events! This will save you money and put you in the middle of the action! You can purchase this at your hotel, right after your orientation.

8. **Be Cool!**

Each year, several travelers never make it to their destination because of their behavior prior to, or during their flight. Misbehaving at the airport could lead to denied boarding. Poor behavior during the flight may necessitate notification to the Immigration authorities who, upon arrival, will prosecute and deport disorderly travelers. Airlines are much less tolerant to bad behavior than in the past. Passengers who lose all or a portion of their vacation due to behavior issues will not be entitled to a refund.

9. **Grad Week Staff!**

If you have any problems or questions, locate the Grad Week on-location staff. Do NOT call the office in the states. It will only cost you money and time. Our staff's number one priority is to assist you with any problems you may have. So look for a Grad Week representative or check with the front desk.

10. **Don't Sweat the Small Stuff!**

Traveling is a hassle. Long lines, long flights, long bus rides and a roommate who stole your boyfriend can make anyone cranky! You are on your Grad Trip to have fun - RELAX!

GRAD WEEK'S POLICY ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION: Grad Week does not promote the abuse of alcohol to its tour participants. Grad Week Travel is aware that on many events and activities in Mexico and the Bahamas, alcoholic - as well as non-alcoholic - beverages are available. Each participant chooses for himself or herself whether or not to consume alcohol. The legal drinking age in Mexico/Bahamas is 18 and loosely enforced.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:

Baggage allowance varies from airline to airline. Please go to the airline's web site to verify what their baggage allowance is.

AIRPORT CHECK-IN:

3 Hours prior to departure for international flights (Mexico and the Bahamas)
 2 Hours prior to departure for domestic flights (Hawaii)
 Have mandatory Travel Documents ready at check-in. Do not be denied boarding!
 Do not lock your suitcases
 Dress smart to pass through Security easily
 Put Grad Week travel bag tags on luggage
 Do not put film in checked luggage
 Meals are not served on-board your flight

ARRIVAL AT YOUR DESTINATION:

Have mandatory Travel Documents ready to clear Immigration (Mexico & Bahamas)
 Pick-up luggage and clear customs (Mexico & Bahamas) - If baggage is missing, you must fill out a lost baggage report before exiting the airport
 Exit airport and look for a Grad Week Rep
 Board bus going to your assigned hotel - Keep valuables with you
 Grad Week is not responsible for lost or stolen items

SPENDING MONEY:

Recommend \$500 to \$600 in traveler's checks to cover food and souvenirs
 Take at least \$50 in cash

HOTEL CHECK-IN:

Attend Welcome Orientation hosted by Grad Week
 Purchase Action Pac
 Register and pick-up room keys
 Use Safety Deposit Boxes to store valuables
 Grad Week is not responsible for lost or stolen items

CALLING HOME:

Very expensive! - However, a quick call to parents is encouraged advising hotel and room number
 Recommend using calling cards if calling is a must - locate a public phone in your hotel lobby or at various shopping centers
 Try not to call from hotel room, as it is very expensive!

RETURNING HOME:

Be checked out and in the Lobby of hotel at designated time
 Carry your Travel Documents in hand for check-in at the airport - Do not pack in luggage
 Don't be late
 Make sure your luggage gets loaded on your bus
 Keep valuables with you at all times
 Do not bring alcohol back to the US if you are under 21 - It is against the law

HOW TO USE THE MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY: Even though over 95% of our travelers never encounter any sickness or injury, it still may occur. If sickness or injury occurs that requires medical attention, Grad Week or hotel staff can direct you to the medical facility on location. As part of your travel package, Grad Week has included Primary Sickness/Accident Insurance coverage through Travel Insured International. To receive insurance assistance, you can call **toll free at (800) 243-3174** and reference policy **T-2210**. The assistant will guide you through the process of how to get reimbursement for your approved medical costs up to the limits of the policy. Emergency Medical Evacuation insurance is also included in case of a serious emergency. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Alcohol-related sickness or injury is not covered.

MONEY WIRE TRANSFERS – Should you run out of money at your destination, Grad Week provides a money wire transfer service for those students who may need additional funds onsite. If you need this service, have someone go to our web site at www.gradweek.com, choose "Grad Week" and go to the "Forms" link and print out a "Wire Transfer Authorization" form. This form needs to be filled out completely and faxed to our corporate office at (916) 939-6806 by no later than 3:00PM Monday thru Friday, Pacific Daylight Time. If any information is omitted, this will delay the wire transfer. The designated traveler will then be able to pick up the cash at their destination at our Grad Week 24-hour staff room after 7:00PM, local time, at each destination. The limit is \$300 and there's a \$25 service charge. The person authorizing their credit card must sign this form and be prepared to have all the correct information to ensure the money gets to the right traveler.

HOTEL PHONE NUMBERS:

<u>CANCUN</u>	<u>PUERTO VALLARTA</u>	<u>BAHAMAS</u>
Hyatt Regency 011-52-998-891-5555	NH Krystal 011-52-322-224-0202	Paradise Island Harbor Resort
Gran Caribe Real 011-52-998-881-7311		1-242-363-2561
NH Krystal Cancun 011-52-998-848-9800	<u>HAWAII</u>	Wyndham Resort 1-242-327-6200
Fiesta Americana 011-52-998-881-4200	Sheraton Princess Kaiulani	Nassau Palm Resort 1-242-356-0000
Solymar 011-52-998-885-1811	1-800 - 922-5811	
	Pacific Beach 1-808 - 922-1233	