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Essential Travel 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 those being “mishandled” or routed to the wrong airport. And the 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.

READ & FIND OUT HOW:

- Start by anticipating a worst-case scenario when you pack your bags. Avoid carrying cash, important documents, medication, jewellery, cameras and breakables in your luggage. Instead, bring these and a change of clothes with you in a small carry-on.
- After you’ve finished packing, place the appropriate identification tags on all your bags. Clearly indicate your name, phone number and work or home address on the tags. Also, slip a copy of your travel itinerary into your bags in case the outside tags are ripped off while in transit. While you’re at it, remove all straps and hooks from your garment bags and suitcases as they can get caught and damaged in the machinery. Another hint: 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. Also, avoid showing up at the airport two minutes before the flight is ready to depart. Though you may narrowly make it onto the plane, your bags may be left behind. And when you check your bags, be sure to obtain a claim check and verify that the tags you have been given correspond with the correct airport code for your destination.
- If the contents of your bags exceed the maximum amount the airlines will reimburse you for if your bag is lost for good, you might want to look into purchasing “excess valuation” upon check-in. Though it is not insurance, it will increase the amount of money owed to you by the airline if your bags are lost. While the cost is usually minimal, the airline can refuse to sell excess valuation on items such as expensive jewellery, antiques, medicines and the like. Better to check your home owner’s or renter’s insurance to see if it covers losses incurred away from home.