

Plan in Advance

Imagine you're at the airport in Hawaii, Vancouver, Cancun or even Paris. It's the end of your trip and your flight home will board in less than an hour. Look around and what do you see?

In most airports, you'll find places to eat because unless you are going first class you probably won't get a meal, so many folks will consume their breakfast, lunch or even dinner at the terminal before getting on their flight.

You're also likely to see places to shop – souvenir stands in particular --.convenient places stocked with items themed to the area you're now leaving. You had time in the past few days to browse real shops where you could have bought mementos of your stay for yourself or as gifts for others, but you didn't! And now you're at the airport where every third store offers you the chance to overpay for the baubles, trinkets and doodads. Now you realize I could have bought those items to take along home for a lot less (and a much better selection) while walking around during the past couple of days.

*So, what should I do that will **CORRECT** this from happening on my next trip?*

Two things. **Plan in advance.** At the beginning of your trip, take 5 minutes and make a list of people you want to buy something for. Then, while there and passing those stores/areas that have a variety of places/items, you can pick up those items that make your purchases smarter. This list also makes "kids" gifts, and selections by your kids, a lot easier than waiting until getting on the plane to go home. **Thoughtful.** You can select for your parents, children, or friends what will really appeal to them. And remember that a good gift **DOES NOT** have to cost a lot of money to be appreciated.

Enjoy your trip...and others will enjoy your thoughtfulness!