

Travel via the Moon

It's after Christmas but a great present for everyone comes to everyone planning a trip in the form of reduced airfares in February and March. Make your reservations NOW because starting in April and continuing thru August those same seats on your flights will be at their HIGHEST!

Not quite approved yet but may be on our horizon in the USA soon....and expected now in certain European airports including London Heathrow....your bottle of shampoo and maybe even that bottle you bought in duty-free before getting on the plane...they soon may go thru TSA without being confiscated....but just to be sure, pack them in your suitcase until the next time you go thru when you can ask those folks as you go thru the line.

And now the bad news: for those of you who earn more than \$250,000 a year, there are 2% less seats up in 1st Class. Of course, if you are able to still get a seat "up-front" you will find they are roomier seats, many lying completely flat when it's time to sleep, the personal entertainment at your seat is better and the menu has improved....makes you want to cancel that "coach" reservation and change it to First Class (also no charge for your baggage up front). And best of all, you get to go to the head of the line at TSA... Almost makes the increase of \$600-1000 to \$4000-5000 to Europe worthwhile, plus the fact that you get to board the plane before all the "peasants" that sit in the back of the plane. Next on board would be Business Class for ½ the price of 1st and actually, service and comfort just as good, making this the better value and will require less of your allowance, particularly on an "overnite" flight. Decisions!

We don't usually go to an airport to get our exercise for the day, but many of the larger departure points here in the US and also in Europe, have put in more walking areas for persons to walk longer distances and even end up at yoga locations at the very end. And if you go 1st class and are invited into the "airline club" (or if you're already a member), many of those exclusive locations have a small workout area, usually not too far from the bar.

We've said this before.....NEVER put your passport in your suitcase.....carry it with you and have it ready at TSA, your airline check-in, the gate you board the plane (they look for your ticket and sometimes ID) and you'll spend a lot of time trying to explain to the Customs people who you are if your baggage is missing on arrival. Missing baggage???? How can that happen, you say.....oh sure, the airline located it right away from your baggage receipts stapled to your ticket envelope.....they found it at your departure city and they'll have it to you tomorrow, and be happy to deliver it to your hotel....so you can wear those "traveling clothes" another day (or two). How to get around that possibility – carry an extra shirt/blouse in your carry-on bag, just in case. The other option is buy some new clothes at a store near the hotel where you're staying. Your hotel may even have some small shops in the lobby where you can get those outfits, but be sure the price will be higher than a local shopping mall within walking distance.

Travel is fun and planning ahead on what you'll be seeing and doing make it twice as much fun. Write down the itinerary you hope to have....and then, stop worrying. It's gonna be a GREAT TRIP.....enjoy. You earned it!!