

ETIQUETTE FINESSE WITH

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PACKED AND READY TO GO

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he holiday season 'summer time' is once again fast approaching. Going on holiday can be either exciting or as we see more and more today a stressful experience. Whether it is from an easy online check-in to long waits at the airport or parking garage to having lost luggage, any opportunity to get away will always put a smile on your face. I should be quick to add though that it all depends on the real reason you want to get away. If you're traveling is for rest and relaxation, why not? You have worked so hard, who can resist that opportunity to chill, shop and pamper yourself. On the other hand if you cram your journey with visiting, shopping, business and more you may need a holiday to get over the holiday. We all have different travel experiences, the good, the bad and the ugly.

How prepared and ready are you when you need to travel? Are you a last minute packer or one who starts packing several days before? Do you over or under pack for your trips? Are you guilty of constant excess baggage? Traveling can be frustrating and lead you to unnecessarily be aggressive, rude, unfriendly and edgy.

Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure depending on the circumstance this may cultivate a justification for you to be rude, lack decorum and throw manners out the window. From your behaviour after discovering that your flight has been overbooked and you have no seat, to people jumping queues, to dressing shabbily because of the "nobody knows me" syndrome, to lazily turning hotel rooms upside down, to poor bathroom etiquette with bathrobes and towels, to untidy bedroom dining, to littering and poor public deportment in restaurants and bars, anyone can be a victim.

Just as you plan your next trip let me leave you with a few travel etiquette strategies to get you going:

Plan your days no matter how short, maximize your opportunity. Be prepared, double check your travel date, arrival time and destination.

It is easy to forget you travel documents cross check and pack them first.

Don't forget to do a little fact finding on your destination to understand the social culture.

Pack wisely for the destination, climate and occasion.

Consciously travel with just hand-bag and trolley be smart and alert.

Dress to impress always remember the way you want to be addressed.

Let your body language speak volumes of credibility, trust and integrity.

Maximize your opportunity to network without being a nuisance.

Ladies - always have in your baggage basics like a pair of comfortable flats, a jacket, black trousers and a little black dress.

Gentlemen - always have in your baggage basics like a pair of jeans, a polo shirt, a casual jacket and a formal dress shirt.

Remember to be polite, courteous and respectful to all, the young, old, professional and non-professional.

Watch your attitude it will pervade your actions: stop : think : listen

On every trip purpose to learn something new, the food, the people, the language the environment.



Bon Voyage