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cut and run

Travel shortcuts that will make your next vacation the easiest ever

By Tim Johnson with files from Megan McChesney

Product photos by Carlo Mendoza

PRINT EMAIL

"Bring your kids' stuffed animals or dolls from home, which are familiar and can help comfort them in new places and situations." *Lisa Lethangue, mom of Brooke, 3*

"As much as I hate to admit it, I don't think we could get by without our portable DVD player and kids' movies. On our last car trip to Florida, we actually burned four hours of Treehouse to a DVD so that we had quick shows to keep the kids occupied! They tend to revert back to 'are there yet?' mode when it's a full-length movie." *Meredith Dodge, mom of Jack, 5, and Andrew, 2*

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don't leave home without it
Parent-recommended items to keep close by, whether you're flying or driving:

- Gravel
- A change of clothes for every kid in the family
- Children's Tylenol and/or Tempra
- Large-sized resealable plastic bags, which can hold dirty clothes or diapers, small toys and can help avert disaster in case of vomiting
- A variety of surprises: stickers, colouring books, small toys, etc.—some parents recommend a gradual, hour-by-hour revealing of the new items, which can make a long day on the road much more bearable
- Band-Aids
- A cornucopia of healthy snacks; Cheerios, mini Goldfish crackers, water bottles and granola bars tend to travel well
- Pepto-Bismol tablets
- Baby wipes, hand sanitizer, paper towel
- Photos of your children, which can be invaluable in finding a wayward charge in a busy and unfamiliar place.

pretty light
Lighten your load with these multiple-use beauty products.



It's your entire makeup bag in one product! Put it on lips, eyes and cheeks. *The Multiple in Orgasm, \$46, Nars.*

Why bring three bottles when you can bring one? This one is

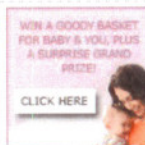
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a facial cleanser, make-up remover and moisturizer. *3 in 1 Mild Gel Cleanser*, \$21, Reversa.



Wash your hair and body with this sweet smelling gel. *Rose & Green Tea Aromatic Wash for body and hair*, \$5, Ombra Spa.



Handy as ever, use these for applying makeup and (carefully) cleaning nooks and crannies. *30-count Purse Pack*, \$3, Q-tips.



100 percent natural, geared for specific climates, mix-and-matchable and entirely unisex, the Solavie Skin/Hair Care System is a no-brainer for travel. This one contains body/face cream on one side, and a shampoo and bath gel 2-in-1 on the other. \$27, Solavie.



Besides being good for your hair, conditioner is also a great shaving-cream substitute. *Vive Pro Colour-care Conditioner*, \$6, L'Oréal Paris.



It's a moisturizer, a salve and relieves chapped or irritated skin. *Petroleum jelly*, \$2, Vaseline.

—MM

Contributing editor *Tim Johnson* admits to being hooked on *tripadvisor.com*—he rarely stays at a hotel without vetting it there first, and sometimes scrolls through reviews, just for fun.

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reader's quote

"Happiness is enhanced by others but does not depend upon others."

Unknown

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family-tested tip!

Consider bribery! "We offered our son to start off the excursion to IKEA with the store's famous \$1 breakfast. Needless to say, he happily joined us – what teenage boy can resist food?!" Brenda, mom of Andrew, 15, Brampton, Ont.

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editor's pick



Thoughts for Food
\$29

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Enter for your chance to **WIN one of two Cuisinart Griddlers.**

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