

# TRAVEL NEWS & NOTES

## Planning Can Help Take the Chill Out of Winter Travel

(NAPSA)—The winter months can be an especially hectic time for travelers, as millions of Americans prepare to hit the road for a quick weekend getaway or week-long family vacation.

“Some might find it surprising that so many people travel during the winter months, but this time of year actually rivals the summer months in popularity,” says Travel Channel expert Tracy Gallagher. “A lot of Americans are looking for a change in



Tracy Gallagher

climate—whether heading to the sunny beaches of Florida or the ski slopes of Colorado—which can make for long lines at airports and cause other frustrations associated with travel.”

With so many people traveling, says Gallagher, the following tips can help make your winter trip more enjoyable and stress-free:

- Try to book direct flights during this bad-weather season. Booking connections, especially through towns notorious for storms that affect weather traffic, only increases the odds of your flights being delayed or canceled.

- Try not to book the last flight of the day. If there are cancellations or weather problems, you



**CLEAN GETAWAY—Wash your hands well after every flight. Germs spread fast in confined places like planes.**

will have to wait until the next day to catch a flight, unless you pay for a ticket on another airline.

- If you need a winter getaway, look into traveling right before or after a holiday period. There are fewer crowds and more flights and hotel rooms available.

- If you'd like to travel somewhere new and try some winter activities, the library can be a great resource. You can check out current travel guides to almost anywhere. One helpful Web site is [LeisureSuitTraveler.com](http://LeisureSuitTraveler.com), which showcases exciting travel destinations, off-the-beaten-path excursions and ways business travelers can add a bit of leisure

and play time to their business travels.

- Since this is flu season, be sure to pack cold and flu medicines along with your regular prescriptions and wash your hands well after every flight—germs spread fast in confined places like planes.

- Winter often means packing heavier clothes. That generally means you will be checking your bigger bag instead of carrying on a smaller one. Allow for extra time at the airport to check your bag—especially if you are flying out in the morning with all the business travelers.

- Stay at a hotel, such as Hilton Garden Inn, that offers many conveniences, such as complimentary high-speed Internet access in every room, in-room fridges and microwave ovens, and guest laundry facilities on site—handy to wash and dry winter clothes. The hotel also offers complimentary remote printing and a Pavilion Pantry for 24-hour snacks. Should inclement weather keep you indoors, you'll have everything you need without leaving your hotel.

To find out more about Hilton Garden Inn hotels in the U.S., Canada or Mexico, or to make reservations, visit [hiltongardeninn.com](http://hiltongardeninn.com) or call 1-877-STAY-HGI in the U.S. and Canada.