Travel Tips

**For women: bring a scarf**

A scarf is about the most versatile item of clothing a woman can own. When traveling, it can be perfect for sudden changes in temperature or a quick outfit modification. If you’re visiting religious buildings, there might be clothing requirements for ladies, such as covered shoulders or skirts. A large rectangular scarf can easily be turned into a shawl or tied about the waist as a makeshift skirt.

**Keep your banks in the know**

Call your debit and credit card customer support before you leave and inform them of your travel plans, especially when heading abroad. Since many companies flag erratic or unfamiliar usage patterns, having a note on file about your location helps avoid inconvenient and ill-timed holds on your card.

**Download relevant travel apps**

You don’t need to go App Store-crazy, but there’s a plethora of smartphone applications tailored for both general travel and travel in specific regions and cities. Think local public transportation maps and timetables, TripAdvisor and Yelp for reviews of restaurants and tourist attractions, city and neighborhood maps, currency exchange tables, and even apps that help you find free nearby WiFi networks.

**Packing tip: roll your clothes**

This is a tried-and-true method of maximizing space in your suitcase. Rolled clothes not only take up less space but also reduce wrinkling and creasing. Use packing cubes to divide and sort your rolled-up clothes into manageable packages that are easy to locate and repack while traveling.

**Tech tip: mini power strip**

With all the technology we tote around these days, the cords themselves are a nightmare, to say nothing of the various blocks and adapters. Simplify your life by packing a mini power strip. Now, when there’s only one power outlet free in the whole airport and both your iPad and cellphone are about to die, you won’t have to make the grave decision between Angry Birds and your Kindle app.