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## Are We There Yet? A Travel Guide For Parents

By Leah Gorecki

Youve all heard of the horror stories of family trips. No matter how long you are staying at your chosen destination, when traveling with children the longest part of the trip can be your journey there. Kids get fidgety, even agressive during especially long car rides or airplane rides. You will need plenty of activities to keep their minds busy.

### 1. Keep Them Busy

Chances are, unless you are going to a very kid-centric location, your children will be very bored. Try purchasing travel games such as tiny versions of chess or checkers. There are also plenty of low cost games you can play in a car like eye spy or 20 questions. Having a variety of games and activities to keep their children occupied and keep their minds off of the journey is always a good idea.

### 2. For Long Car Rides

Keep in mind when designing an itinerary of games that children typically get tired of playing the same game twice. For your benefit, you can design games that take a long time to complete. For example, you can play the ABC game. In this game, you have to find all the letters of the alphabet from signs, licence plates, etc. Letters can only be found outside the car and must be verified by others in the car to make sure that they are not just making up signs. As an added challenge and to prevent cheating, you can remove licence plates from the possible things you can get letters from. It can be quite difficult to find the letters Q,U,V,X,Y and Z. To keep things interesting you can make it a race and whoever finishes the alphabet first wins. This is a great game for small children as it reinforces their learning the alphabet.

### 3. Keep Things Novel

You might want to buy some new toys or games for your children. A new book, especially, can last an entire trip if your child loves to read. Just be careful, however, as reading while in a car can, for some people, make them feel nauseous.

#### 4. Babies During Flights

Remember to use a child seat and set it up so the baby is facing your rear windshield. You can give your baby a bottle while the plane is taking off to calm them down and prevent your baby's ears from popping.

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### **Caribbean Travel Guide**

**By Burt Cotton**

All there is to know about the vacation destination of your dreams - that is exactly what a Caribbean travel guide offers. But are Caribbean travel guides really godsend? Or are they just patronizing materials designed for commercial purposes?

Well, they're a little of both actually. After all, the people behind Caribbean travel guides do need a source of income in order to continue to publish their guides. But a tremendous amount of research has been placed in these guides to just dismiss them as useless resource material.

What else is more nifty, informative and convenient than a Caribbean travel guide?

Sure, the Internet may prove more updated when it comes to information, but you can't carry the Internet everywhere. And believe it or not, it's always much more gratifying to pull out a Caribbean travel guide from your carry case, flip a few pages open, then slip it right back when you're tired of reading. It sure beats having to wait in the airport, sitting bored silly and wondering whether or not your flight's going to be delayed.

That said, don't cling to travel guides religiously. Many travelers make that mistake. They are not the bibles that they are made out to be by some people. You should know that published materials, including travel guides, are out of date the moment they are published, because by then, there would have been new updated material that came up and it would be too late to include them.

So, how are you supposed to use Caribbean travel guides then? How would you know which information to believe and which facts are outdated? Unfortunately, there is no exact answer to that. To get the most out of your Caribbean travel guide, use them sparingly for basic orientation. So once you have the basics right down to a tee, go out there and discover the towns and cities on your own. That is, after all, what traveling is all about - adventure and discovery of new things. At the very least, when all other signs look foreign, the information on museums and places of interest are great.

However, when it comes to hotels and restaurants, each to his own taste and budget. Remember that bargains rise in price with popularity, so there's every bit of chance that that hot new deal in your Caribbean travel guide isn't much of a deal anymore, considering how pricey it has become. And then

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sometimes, too, the places get easily full with foreigners and travelers like you, so you can't always expect your Caribbean travel guide to point you in the right place all the time.

Then, if you do wander around on your own, then you will surely find quality rooms with reasonable prices. They may be located in out-of-the-way places that Caribbean travel guide writers may not know about. Remember that because you in the destination, you are in far better place to get what you want out of your vacation.

So to close it off, don't be a sad type who writes to say that "it wasn't like what you said in the book." Here's a tip: open your eyes and explore for yourself!

Burt Cotton

<http://www.caribbean-travel-news.com>



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