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Check It? Or Carry It On? – A Review Of Travel Restrictions Affecting Your Vacation To Aruba

By Justin Burch

After you have planned your vacation to Aruba, you may be wondering what to pack. To ensure that you don't experience any unwelcome surprises at either your departing airport or the Aruba Airport, make note of the guidelines in this article. The following is a convenient outline of what you can and cannot pack when traveling to Aruba and some added travel tips to make your vacation as enjoyable as possible.

First, make sure you pack all your important personal belongings such as travel documents, personal identification and medications in your carry-on luggage. Do not place locks on your carry-on baggage, as this could cause unnecessary delays when passing through screening.

Try to arrive at your departing airport three hours before the scheduled flight time. When you are ready to fly home, you must also allot approximately three hours for check-in and screening at the Aruba Airport, especially if your return flight is between 11 AM and 3 PM.

Due to recent concerns, liquids, gels and aerosols are no longer allowed in the carry-on baggage of all travelers on flights arriving to, traveling within or departing from the United States. Effective August 11, 2006, the following items must be placed in your checked baggage when traveling to Aruba, until further notice from the U.S. government:

All beverages and liquid food items such as yogurt

Skin lotions, creams or balms including suntan lotion and hand sanitizing products

Tooth Paste

Mouthwash

Shampoo

Hair gels and pomades

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Hair spray or any other type of aerosol products

Liquid cosmetics such as lip gloss and mascara

Obviously, there are some exceptions to the restriction on liquids and gels. The following items are allowed in carry-on baggage when traveling to Aruba, but make note of the documentation and packaging that some items may require:

Prescription medicine – medication or dispenser must be properly marked with a professionally printed label or pharmaceutical label identifying the medication or the manufacturer's name. If for some reason you don't have a professionally printed label, you must obtain a doctor's note.

Non-prescription saline solution and eye care products (under 4 ounces per container)

Liquid insulin and dispensing products for diabetic passengers (under 5 ounces per container) - must be properly marked with a professionally printed or pharmaceutical label identifying the medication or the manufacturer's name

Solid cosmetics and personal hygiene items including lipstick in a tube, solid deodorant and lip balm

Baby formula, milk and food – only allowed if a baby or small child is traveling with you

Gels, saline solutions or other liquids worn as detachable items used to augment portions of the body for medical or cosmetic reasons - includes gel bras.

Duty free liquor, perfume and cosmetics items purchased within the airport terminal areas will given to you by the duty free operator after reclaiming your checked luggage.

If you are concerned about any item packed in your carry-on baggage, contact your travel agent or airline before arriving at the airport or simply ask personnel at the time of check-in. You can still place the above-mentioned restricted items in your checked baggage before proceeding to security screening.

It is also suggested that you try to minimize the amount of metal you wear. Large belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, some jewelry and metal toed or heeled footwear can set off security checkpoint metal detectors. This will require additional searches, slowing you and other travelers down. Therefore, while you are waiting in line, it is recommended that place your keys, jewelry or watches, coins, belts and any other metal items in your carry-on baggage until you clear security. You will also be asked to remove your shoes at the checkpoint and place them in a tray to be x-rayed.

As was the case before the new regulations in August, electronic devices such as mobile phones, PDAs, cameras, CD and MP3 players are still allowed in carry-on luggage. However, be prepared to remove your laptop computer from its case and place it on the x-ray belt by itself. It is generally recommended to attach a name and contact information label to the bottom of your laptop in case any confusion arises passing through security. Also, it is still advised that you pack all film in your carry-on

luggage. If you have any concerns about your film going through the x-ray system, you can request that it be hand-inspected by a security screener.

When planning your vacation to Aruba, it is also very important to note that effective January 8, 2007, the U.S. Government will require passports for all air and sea travel to and/or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Bermuda and The Bahamas. It is advised to allow six to eight weeks to process passport applications before your vacation to Aruba.

This article was written by Justin. Justin writes select pieces about travel in Aruba for the Aruba Renaissance Resort (

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/AUABR>

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Make A Visit To Aruba

By Martin Stoleman

I love nothing more than sitting down with someone or a family of people and helping them to plan their next vacation. Why? Well, a few reasons I guess. First, I love to go on vacation. I have loved travel for as long as I can remember, so I love infecting other people with the travel bug. I also love helping people plan trips because I know that life is short and I believe that it was meant to be enjoyed. So I love helping people escape from it all and enjoy time somewhere nice. One of my favorite places to suggest for a visit is Aruba.

I often suggest Aruba because it is beautiful place to visit that is still somewhat undiscovered. I like that about a place. I rarely encourage people to visit a place that will be filled with nothing but tourists. You don't get a real taste of Mexico, for example, if you are on the beach with no one other than vacationers. So I encourage my clients to go for something a bit off the beaten path, like say Aruba.

Aruba is beautiful, there are none that would deny it. And beauty, I believe, is an essential part to any great vacation. Now of course people will have a wide variety of views on what exactly makes a thing beautiful, but I think most would agree that white sand beaches, clear blue skies and sunshine make any place great. So if you are looking for sun and beauty, look no further than to the island of Aruba.

Located in the Caribbean, Aruba has a wonderful mixture of things to do and beaches to relax on. You want the option of doing several different things on any vacation, so choosing something like Aruba that has options for busyness or relaxation is perfect no matter who you are or what kind of trip you want.

Talk to a travel agent about your desire to see Aruba. See what kind of package deals you can come up with and find out if any packages even include airfare. Be sure to share with your travel agent all about the things you hope to get from your trip so that she or he will be able to help you as much as possible. Let them fill you in on some of the lesser known things to experience in Aruba.

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Grab your family or your closest friends and head off for some great time in Aruba. Once there, you will have the vacation of a lifetime. So get planning and then you can relax and enjoy all that Aruba has to offer.

Martin Stoleman is a travel agent that loves sending his clients to Aruba. See

<http://www.arubagoods.info>

for more on planning a trip there for yourself.



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