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Ten Tips For A Tech Problem Free Vacation

By Mike Wendland

Heading off for vacation? Here are my top 10 tips for a trouble-free high tech vacation -- things to do before you leave and what to do while on vacation to protect and enjoy your gizmos and gadgets:

1. Unplug. Yeah, I know. That's what you hope to do on your getaway. But give your gadgets a break, too. Unplug your computers and printers. This protects them against power surges or nearby lightning strikes while you're away. Same with your cable modem, router and wireless hub.
2. Auto-respond your work e-mail and phone. If you use Microsoft Outlook through an exchange server at work, go into options and compose an auto response that tells people you will be out of the office for a while and won't be answering them. Give them someone at work they can contact in your absence. Do the same with your voice mail at work.
3. Don't advertise that nobody's home. Work is one thing. But don't put a "we're not here" message on your home phone. Just like piles of mail in the mailbox tell thieves nobody's home, so can a home answering machine that tells anyone who calls that you're on vacation. Instead, keep the same recorded message but make sure you have the playback code so you can check for messages from another phone.
4. Pack your chargers. For your cell phone, your camcorder, your digital camera and your iPod. Some people even bring along an extra power strip so you don't hog all the outlets at your vacation getaway.
5. Stay away from the water. Not you, but your gadgets. I have a friend who bought a camcorder for a Florida vacation. At Sea World, Shamu jumped and he thought he got a great shot of his kid getting splashed. The problem was, so did the camera. It was ruined.

Salt water is the worst for electronic devices. And while a mild fresh water or rain exposure may not be destructive, if your camera gets even a tiny amount of salt water inside, it's a goner.

6. Hold onto your cameras. Use the straps. I just lost a brand new digital camera. I was taking pictures of the grandkids and one of them ran by and bumped my arm. The camera fell to the cement,

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shattering the lens and the case. Use the strap that comes with the cameras. Wrap them around your hand or neck.

7. Think storage. Make sure you have a big enough memory card to store all the pictures you take. I'd suggest a minimum of 512 MB to hold around 125 good-quality pictures. A 1GB card holds around 250 images.

The only thing worse than forgetting the charger and running out of juice is not being able to take more pictures because the memory is full. With camcorders, bring along extra miniDV tapes.

8. Bring a laptop For one thing, you can transfer some of those photos to your laptop and free up more memory. But for another, the laptop is great for reviewing the pictures at the end of each day. Create a slide show of the day's highlights. Looking over the pictures is a great way to pass time on a rainy day.

Besides, most resorts and hotels now offer free Internet hookups. If not, a library or Starbucks offers wireless access so you can send family and friends a picture or check e-mail.

9. Bring Ziploc bags for the beach. Sand can cause almost as many problems as water. When you take your iPod and mobile phone and other gizmos to the beach, keep them in those clear bags that can be sealed to protect the outside from getting in. And don't keep them in the sun for long periods of time.

10. Create a vacation blog. Remember when we used to go over to friend's homes to see vacation pictures projected on a screen? Now we blog it.

Mike Wendland

<http://www.techtipstoday.com>

5 Tips For Success In Vacation Home Rental Choices

By Owner Vacation Rentals

Vacation home rentals are one of the most perfect locations for just about anyone to stay at. There is no reason for you not to select these hotels as they often allow for some of the best accommodations in many areas. Just imagine waking up in a home without tons of people in the room next to you and being able to relax in the sun pouring in off the ocean view. This is just one example that you may be able to take into consideration too. There is no doubt that a vacation home rental is the right choice, but what should you do to make sure it is the right choice for you?

Here are 5 tips to help you to make that decision.

1. Take the time to browse yours selections. When you shop for your vacation home rental on the web, you are able to see what it looks like right from the beginning. This allows you to compare all types of

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homes within just a matter of seconds. You can see so many details this way too.

2. Price shop too. There is no reason to compare prices of one vacation rental to the next. If you would do this to find the best hotel in the area, then do the same thing for the vacation home you are considering. With so many options available, there is bound to be competition to drive the rates down.

3. Talk to the owner. One of the largest problems facing those that book vacation rental homes online is that they can not talk to the owner to get the answers to their questions. Find a website that allows the owner to tell you about the home and answer any questions you have.

4. For a cost savings option, consider moving your choices in vacation home rentals back just a bit. By allowing a bit of distance between you and the main attractions, you can often save quite a bit of money. This can allow you to save a good deal in the long run.

5. Get what you want. If there are special amenities and necessities that you need and want, then look for it. Many of the condos and homes that are vacation home rentals allow you to have most of what hotels offer if not more so.

Taking advantage of these things in vacation home rentals allows you to win when you are on vacation. Your own home to go back to after a night of toss in the sand or enjoying the local cluster is just the way to go. Use these tips to help you to get the most out of you vacation home rental. There is no reason for you not to benefit.

If you want the benefits of working directly with the owner and not dealing with any agencies for your vacation home rental please visit (

<http://www.ownervacationrentals.com>

). We work directly with owners

so you do not have to pay any agency fees and we pass the vacation rental savings on to you.



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