



Travelling as a family this summer?

Travelling abroad with a young family can be stressful, especially if it is for the first time. Forward planning and following our recommendations below can help make your journey faster and hassle free.

1. Make a list of everything you need and where it is kept

Passports, food, wipes, nappies; make note of what you have and where it is located in your hand luggage. This way you will be able to find things quickly when needed.

2. Dress for comfort

Make sure your family is dressed suitably for a long journey and changes in temperature. Loose, layered and comfortable clothes often work best.

3. Keep all your travel details together in one pack.

Travelling can involve carrying a lot of paperwork such as tickets, car rental information, maps, hotel reservations, travel connections, itineraries. Use a folder or binder with separate pockets to keep important information together but separate for easier reference.

4. Ask about priority boarding

Many airlines offer priority boarding for families with very young children. If you can't find any information about this online, be sure to ask a member of staff when you check-in at the airport.

5. Protect against 'ear-popping'

Altitude change can be uncomfortable for children, especially if this is their first time travelling. Encouraging yawning or swallowing can often help ears adjust to the change in pressure.

6. Prepare before reaching the UK border

When returning home, upon landing have your passports ready and remove any hats or sunglasses before reaching the border. This way you will get through the identity inspection faster and move on to collect your luggage.

7. Stick together at the UK border

You can often receive your ID check as a family. Border Force officers aim to clear the majority of UK and EEA nationals citizens through passport control within 25 minutes. Going through border inspection together as a family is a much more efficient way of doing it.

8. Use the electronic passport gates (if eligible)

If your children are between 12-17 years old, they can use the electronic passport (ePassport) gates at most airports. This is often a much faster way to get through the UK border.

For more information about the UK border, visit
www.gov.uk/uk-border-control