

TRAVELING WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT

GENERAL TIPS

1. Use a travel agent when possible; this allows for help with contacting hotel, air and cruise lines as well as attractions.
2. Make travel arrangements as soon as possible and always have written confirmation of all travel plans.
3. Ask for help from other travelers, if needed.
4. Have paper and pencil accessible at all times to assist with communication.
5. Pack extra batteries and tubing if traveling with hearing aids.
6. Take a humidifier to alleviate moisture problems with hearing aids, especially in warmer climates.

TRAVEL BY AIR

1. Hearing Aid equipment should be stored in carry-on bag to avoid loss; extra batteries should be in a separate bag from equipment to avoid an entire loss of using hearing aids.
2. Check in online versus at the airport.
3. Arrive early to airport and indicate to TSA and gate agent of hearing loss.
4. Use gate display boards regarding flight changes (ie. delays, gate changes, cancellations) or request information be conveyed in person.
5. Sit in aisle seat for easy communication with flight staff.
6. Inform flight attendants regarding the way you want to be informed of information (tap on shoulder, hand wave) how the information should be relayed (notes/gestures) and information you want to receive (upcoming turbulence).
7. Do not need to turn hearing aids off when asked to "turn off all electronic devices."

TRAVEL BY SEA

1. Do research regarding where people with special needs check-in on cruise line before boarding the ship.
2. Ship should provide you with a tool kit that includes an Assistive Listening Device (ALD), bed alarm shaker and strobes for announcements.
3. Request to sit in a less noisy area of the dining room and make sure dining staff is aware of hearing loss.
4. During a safety drill, introduce self to staff conducting the drill in your area to inform them of hearing impairment.
5. Keep hearing aid away from key as it may demagnetize the key.
6. Research excursions through another source vs. through the cruise line itself; allows for smaller groups and have a better chance of accommodations being met.
7. Speak to doctor regarding insurance for hearing aids in case they are lost while traveling.
8. Request announcements be sent to cell phone.
9. Check to make sure your phone is able to receive and send text messages, especially if traveling abroad.

SOURCES

<https://www.entnet.org/content/travel-tips-hearing-impaired> <http://sath.org/index.php?sec=768&id=2213>
<http://www.deaffriendly.com/articles/tips-for-deaf-fliers-travel-proactively/>
<http://phb.secondsensehearing.com/content/tips-cruise-travel-hearing-loss>
<https://www.miracle-ear.com/travel>