**Are We There Yet? – The Ultimate Guide for Travellers Series, Travel Resources**

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We have gathered some resources to ensure that you have a memorable trip and provided the details below. This information offers guidance on planning essentials, such as choosing the ideal destination and accommodations, and helpful tips for packing and organization.

# **Preparing and Planning Your Trip**

[Government of Canada – Travel advice and advisories by destination](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories)

The Government of Canada’s official source of travel information and advice, the Travel Advice and Advisories, helps you make informed decisions and travel safely while outside Canada. Check the page for your destination often because safety and security conditions may change.

# **Travelling with a Guide Dog**

It is the passenger’s responsibility to inform service providers about their accessibility requirements at least 48 hours in advance. Below are some valuable links with information about paperwork and identification required when planning your travels.

[Travel Paws](http://www.travelpaws.org/)

[Guide Dog Users of Canada (GDUC)](https://gduc.ca/)

[Guide Dog Users Inc. (GDUI)](https://guidedogusersinc.org/)

In advance of your travel, request a tour of the resort for your arrival, hotel, cruise ship, etc., to help familiarize yourself with your surroundings and identify a relief area for your dog.

# **Choosing the Right Accommodations**

Just like when making travel arrangements, it is the traveller's responsibility to communicate their room accommodations. When booking a hotel, be sure to consider the following:

* A brightly lit hotel room with natural lighting
* A room with easy access to either the elevator or main floor lobby/reception
* Consider selecting a room no higher than the fifth floor
* Alternative-format materials (like a braille or large-print menu): let the hotel know at least two months in advance so they have lots of time to make sure they accommodate you properly
* Concierge service! They're usually a wealth of local information and can help with recommendations on everything from nearby restaurants to navigating public transit

# **Packing & Luggage Hacks**

* Pack light and use carry-on luggage
* Fold outfits you plan to wear together and store them in packing cubes, or use safety pins to group outfits.
* If you check a bag, make finding it on the baggage carrousel a little easier with an audible luggage locator (available from US$14.95 at amazon.com). When you press the button, it will activate a beeping sound for you to follow and locate your luggage
* A cheaper option is to stick brightly coloured tape on your suitcase or tie a large ribbon to the handle

# **Travel Health Kit**

[Government of Canada – Travel Health Kit](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/kit)

First aid or certain medications are sometimes unavailable or costly outside of Canada. Consider this resource list of health care aides in case of injury or sickness.

# **Travel Agencies, Agents & Groups**

Below, you will find a list of travel groups, agencies and agents who have experience organizing trips for persons with disabilities.

## **Access Travel Club**

Website: <https://accesstravelclub.ca>

Email: accesstravelclub@gmail.com

## **Magic Carpet Travel**

Website: <https://magiccarpet.ca/>

Contact Douglas MacEachern

Email: d.maceachern@magiccarpettravel.ca

Magic Carpet Travel has been specializing in leisure and cruise travel since 1976. They are a full-service agency located in Windsor, Ontario. Their staff of dedicated professionals, with their combination of education and travel experience, creates a unique resource of knowledge to manage any of your travel needs. They focus on accessible travel with the specific needs of their low vision and blind clientele.

## **Nadine Lapointe, ACC**

Website: www.nlapointe.travelonly.com

Email: nlapointe@travelonly.com

Nadine has helped organize flights, accommodations and excursions for travellers with various degrees of sight loss to destinations worldwide.

## **Travel Eyes International**

Website: https://www.traveleyes-international.com

Since 2004, Travel Eyes has been designing tours, especially for travellers who are blind or have sight loss to destinations around the world. Sighted travellers can also join a tour and help guide and describe sights to blind travellers. Travel Eyes provides itineraries that are carefully chosen to stimulate all the senses.