

March 2015

Dear Clients and Friends:

I met a travel agent at a party not long ago. It turns out they're not extinct after all, just harder to find outside the structured services offered by AAA, Costco and a thousand online travel companies.

During our interesting conversation I learned a cost-effective way to travel in style, using frequent flyer miles. Instead of paying for the airline ticket with miles, you can buy the ticket out of pocket and then use miles to upgrade to business or first class. The way airlines are cutting down on space and filling all the seats, upgrading is a big deal if you want to enjoy all those hours of transit, whether in the air or sitting on the tarmac.

Credit for the ideas in this letter goes to Kathy McClelland, an experienced travel agent, instructor and tourism writer, phone (619) 265-8829. Here are some of her travel tips:

Consider insurance -- medical, dental, baggage, interruption, cancellation.

Take copies of your passport, insurance papers, traveler's checks and air tickets with you and leave another set of copies with someone at home.

Pre-print address labels for postcards. Hand carry medicines, car and house keys.

Carry \$200 in local currency. Use credit cards and ATM's as much as possible.

When the Skycap takes your luggage, verify everything has been tagged to the correct destination. Use luggage labels with another address, so potential burglars checking addresses at the airport won't know your home is going to be unoccupied. Place your actual address inside your luggage, to be found in case the tag is lost or pulled off.

Bon voyage,



Charles M. Shackelford