

Preparing for a trip

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Summer is here and I must pack my suitcases for the holidays.

My suitcase includes some must-haves that I am going to enumerate, not to forget them before leaving:

Things that I must have

- Passport/Identity Card
- Wallet
- Papers (driving licence, etc.)
- Health insurance
- Plane tickets
- Other necessary objects (medicines, wet napkins, iPod, magazines, etc.)

Besides, we must take into consideration the following:

If we travel by plane:

- ✚ In case we fly, the carry-on luggage must contain only objects allowed to be taken on the plane.

If we travel by plane or other means of transport, we should also take:

- ✚ a camera;
- ✚ toothbrush, shower gel;
- ✚ towels;
- ✚ pyjamas;
- ✚ mp3-ul for the road;
- ✚ warm clothes, light clothes;
- ✚ a touristic guide or a map of the area.

If Turkey is your destination, keep in mind the following:

Dos:

- ✚ **DO** dress conservatively for business occasions.
- ✚ **DO** eat everything on your plate. Some Turkish hosts might be offended if you don't.
- ✚ **DO** be aware that smoking while eating is common and you probably shouldn't request that your dining partners stop.
- ✚ **DO** pay for the meal if you initiated the invitation. Splitting the bill is not traditionally done in Turkey.
- ✚ **DO** leave a modest tip at a restaurant.
- ✚ **DO** remember that Turkey is a Muslim country and not everyone drinks alcohol, so keep that in mind before purchasing an alcoholic beverage as a gift.
- ✚ **DO** shake hands upon meeting someone.
- ✚ **DO** be punctual when invited to a dinner party.
- ✚ **DO** bring the host a gift.
- ✚ **DO** maintain eye contact during meetings. Turks take eye contact while speaking as a sign of honesty.
- ✚ **DO** be ready to negotiate. Turks will often suggest something extreme in the beginning to see how you'll respond.

Don'ts

- ✚ **DON'T** leave the children out when giving gifts. Buy them a little something, too!
- ✚ **DON'T** open your gift until later.
- ✚ **DON'T** give a gift that is very expensive.
- ✚ **DON'T** stand with your hands on your hips or in your pockets.
- ✚ **DON'T** point at someone with your finger.
- ✚ **DON'T** try to schedule appointments during Ramadan or during July and August, which is when many Turks take vacation.
- ✚ **DON'T** discuss business right off the bat. First appointments are often just to get to know each other. Engage in small talk about things such as soccer, families, and Turkish history. Avoid bringing up politics.
- ✚ **DON'T** be late. If you think you won't be on time, call to explain why.