

Travel via the Moon

Now hear this ! This is no drill ! Going on a trip/tour ? As a recent tour couple to Europe, we had difficulties getting out of LAX for 32 hours due to "over-booked" or aircraft maintenance problems. As a result of these attempts in 2 days, the tour departed without us.....and the \$8638 that we paid 5 months ago **is lost**.....no refunds,no reschedule **lost !** Three days of talking with *Viking Cruises* plus one certified letter to the CEO produced no results. The bank account is 8638 lower.

So, OK you are scheduled, or are thinking of one in the future. These tour-folks all want money in advance - so what can you do? **First** of all, check to see if you can cancel prior to tour departure date **with no penalty**. Many companies will allow this. But, what if they don't allow cancellation once they have your money. If they offer **insurance** you can purchase (looking closely that this insurance does allow you to cancel (no show)), it may cost you an additional couple hundred dollars to purchase this insurance from the tour company, but when you're having to travel long distances, sometimes with multiple airlines, or via rail, just to get to your starting point, difficulties along the way may put you out the entire cost of your tour.

Step #2....get those airline tickets well in advance of your departure date. You can't do anything if your airline flight has a maintenance problem, but, have a plan in your back-pocket. Airplane problems with one airline...look at another airline to get you to your destination instead of waiting for days for your original airline to help you. Get some kind of **written certification** from your *original* airline (you **were there early and checked in with your seat assignment** from your original airline) OK.

Go to a competing airline and pay them for seats that will still get you to your destination **on time** ...preferably the day **before your tour leaves!** The extra cost for cancellation insurance and/or airline tickets on another carrier that will get you to your tour, will cost more that you originally planned on.....but, isn't that better than losing the entire amount you spent for the tour due to something you couldn't plan or control????

Travel used to be fun and we enjoyed it. But some of us are getting older, don't move as fast, and have problems remembering a lot of details that we thought nothing of in years gone by. These are a few hints that may keep that bank-account from taking a big drop due to poor planning or travel complications that you can't do anything about.

Another option.....limit your travel to 10-12 miles from home in your car....or a bus.....or a taxi. *Enjoy wherever you go!*