

Considering some of the big bucks you need to spend to travel these days, saving just a dollar or two may seem trivial. However, if you pile up enough of them, your savings could be significant. For instance:



1. If you're on a cruise or in a hotel, do not use the your room's phones to call outside. The charges can be more than double what you'd pay at a regular public phone. If your contract includes free roaming service, use your cell phone.
2. Don't use your cell phone when you're away from your own country. Roaming charges for those calls could make talking for just a few minutes very expensive. Before you use any cruise ship or hotel phone, check all the prices.
3. If you don't have your laptop with you, check prices before you use the hotel or ship's computer room. It could set you back as much as \$50 an hour, plus fees for printing and other add-ons.
4. Don't take anything from your hotel room minibar unless you don't mind paying \$8 for a Coke and \$10 for a pack of cheese crackers. Use the machine in the hotel lobby or the gift shop on the first floor.
5. In hotels where you have a choice of a sit-down breakfast, lunch and dinner or eat all at the buffet, choose the buffet. You could pay \$50 or more for the meal at the posh restaurant, with everything charged a la carte. At the buffet, you'll pay \$25 or less, and it will include all you can eat of appetizer, beverage, salad, soup, main dish and dessert.

Also, reconsider room service meals, which are expensive indulgences, involve long waits, and hot meals gone cold. Get your lazy butt downstairs to a less costly hotel restaurant. Or better still, wander outside into the city to find an even more economical meal.

6. Hotel laundries can be very expensive. Each night before going to bed, take the day's clothing into the shower with you. Wash and wring out, wrap in big towels to squeeze out excess water, and then hang them in the room. Like you, they'll be fresh and ready the next

morning.

7. In tourist cities like London, Paris, Venice, Manhattan, Rome, Tokyo, Hollywood, Las Vegas and Philadelphia, take your sensible shoes. It is much healthier to walk, and you'll save lots of money by not jumping into expensive taxis everywhere you go. Further, in places like Vegas and Tokyo, traffic is so gridlocked most of the time, walking could actually be a quicker way to get where you're going.