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For those who follow our Facebook wall, you will know that we recently added three new agents. I would like to welcome Melissa, Jon and Kim to the ToaD Team! All three are very knowledgeable about Disney Destinations and ready to help.

One thing that I have found in the past is that people are unclear how things work with traveling. Some things can be very intimidating to some while seasoned travelers think nothing of it. For example, when to use a passport, traveling with children, how exactly do things work at the airport. As travel consultants, we not only find you the right vacation with the most value, we also help take the mystery out of some of the stressful aspects of traveling. We are starting a new blog series called Removing the Mystery, which will come out roughly once a week. The first topic is included in this newsletter. We will run subsequent submissions in future newsletters in case you don't get to our blog regularly.

The last three years have been incredible for Travel On A Dream and me personally. I have and continue to enjoy helping you plan the perfect vacation for your families. I don't see that changing anytime soon either! I am finding, though, that so many of you are referring me to your friends and family, which I love, but my availability is becoming more limited. In order for me to continue to offer top quality service to all of my clients (both present and past), I feel I need to hand off new referrals to my other agents. I never want any of you to feel that I'm not taking care of your needs, and I also don't want to give up any more of my personal time. I hope you will continue to refer your friends and family members for me to pair them up with one of our fantastic agents. I will continue to work with existing and past clients for

current and future travel needs. I also will continue to work on all ToaD endorsed groups (such as our cruises and tours). If ever you feel uncomfortable about me referring your friends and family to my agents, just let me know and we will work it out. This isn't a change forever, just for right now so I can better serve all of you.

Introducing Melissa Kyler



Hi, my name is Melissa. I live in southern NJ with my husband of 17 years and my teenage son. I love to travel, scrapbook, read, watch TV and everything and anything Disney. I am a self-professed Disney Addict. My first visit to the World was in 1999 as an adult. My husband had visited a

couple of times as a child and always wanted to take me to Disney World. From the moment I stepped on Disney property I was in awe. Since that first visit, I have been to WDW so many times I have lost count. I have visited Disneyland a few times as well as have been lucky enough to take the Backstage Magic Adventures by Disney tour.

Removing the Mystery - The Airport

By Debbie Lasher

Traveling through an airport is not as intimidating as the media and society leads us to believe. We just need to be prepared, and all will go smoothly. And, preparing for the airport experience isn't as difficult as it sounds.

First, make certain you arrive early to the airport. 90 minutes before domestic flights is recommended. When you first arrive at the airport, you will check in at the ticket counter. This is similar to checking in to a hotel: you will need to show photo identification (a driver's license or passport), and confirm your travel destination. Note: all passengers, ages 18 and older, need to show photo identification when checking in at the ticket counter. After checking in at the ticket counter, you will be issued your boarding pass (some airlines allow you to print your boarding pass from home; check with your airline for details), your checked bags will be collected, and you'll be directed to security. Don't put away your ID yet; you'll need to show it again when you go through security.

Going through security is arguably the most daunting part of air travel. There's a lot to remember, and airport security officers can come across as intimidating. In my experience, security officers are serious (understandably, they have to take their job seriously), but a simple smile and 'hello' go a long way.



When you first arrive at security, you will need to present your boarding pass and photo ID. The security officer will scan your ID to make sure it's legitimate, sign or initial your boarding pass, then send you on to the metal detector or body scanner. This, to me, is the most difficult part of air travel. First, you'll need to remove your shoes. Next, you'll need to remove any electronics (laptops, video cameras, etc.) as well as any liquids (remember the 3-1-1 rule for liquids: 3 ounces or less of liquid or less, inside 1 quart-sized, clear plastic, zip-top bag, 1 bag

per passenger). These will need to go through the scanner in separate bins from your carry-ons. Security always has plenty of bins, so no need to bring your own. Finish any drinks you may have as you cannot take them through security.

While your bags are going through the scanner, you will pass through either a metal detector or body scanner. Each person goes through when the agent says it's ok to pass through. If a body scanner is the only choice, you can request a pat-down instead if you are uncomfortable with the imagery being used. A same sex officer will conduct the pat down. Each airport will randomly select passengers to receive additional screening, either a pat down, wand down, or another form of security screening. Each airport has its own regulations as to how they select passengers, but rest assured that if you are one of the randomly selected passengers, this whole process is very brief. Always keep in mind that you are not being singled out for this screening; it, in the greatest majority of cases, is truly random.

One piece of advice when going through security: if you have any metal in your body, such as metal bars, screws, or joint replacements, make sure you have documentation as such from your doctor. You will set off the metal detector, and it will save both you and the security officer a lot of heartache. Similarly, if you have a pacemaker or other electronic implant, notify security as you cannot go through the metal detector, but can go through the body scanner. You also cannot be wanded.

Once through security, the fun begins! The hardest part of the airport experience is now over. After recollecting your belongings (make sure to collect them all!), verify your gate number with one of the monitors and head there to wait for your plane. If you are hungry or thirsty, you will have plenty of food and drink options in the airport. There are also newsstands where you can purchase newspapers, magazines, and the like. Just make sure to arrive to your gate on time!

City	Time	Airline	Flight	Gate	Status
Chicago-O'Hare	9:20 AM	American Eagle	5030	12	
Cleveland, OH	9:28 AM	United	4600	6	Departed
Minneapolis	9:32 AM	Delta	5069	9	Departed
Chicago-O'Hare	9:33 AM	United	3623	5	Departed
Detroit	10:55 AM	Delta	4984	8	On Time
Atlanta	11:00 AM	Delta	4940	9	On Time
Dallas-Ft. Worth	11:05 AM	American Eagle	3222	12	On Time
Denver	11:59 AM	United	4206	6	On Time
Detroit	12:00 PM	Delta	5695	7	On Time
Chicago-O'Hare	1:05 PM	American Eagle	5064	12	On Time

Once at your gate, read over your boarding pass to look for a boarding number or boarding group. Each airline boards differently; some do it by groups or zones, some do it by row number. Also, keep in mind that the boarding process generally begins 20-30 minutes prior to your departure time. When you board the plane, all you need to show is your boarding pass; you can put away your ID after you complete the security process.

After boarding the plane, you can sit back, relax, and enjoy your flight!

Client's Corner

Manoa Valley Rainforest and Bamboo Forest Hike

By Louise Mullen

Louise and her husband visited Aulani recently and participated in several excursions. Here is her review of one.

We met in the lobby of Aulani for our air conditioned bus ride. Matthew, our Adventures by Disney guide, gave us background during the half hour ride. We rode past Pearl Harbor, the airport, and the outskirts of Honolulu. He related how the west side of the island of Oahu was arid as there were cacti growing along the highways. The east side of the island and around the mountains receives over 200 inches of rainfall a year. Therefore the mountainous areas are mostly covered in rainforest.

It was only through mutual agreement between the private land owners and a tour company that allows groups onto this private property. The tour company provides the guide who leads the way and Matthew

brought up the rear. Both of them provided interesting details to the trek along the way. Adventures by Disney currently has it on their schedule for Sundays. The excursion is limited to approximately 20 individuals to go onto this particular trail in order to see the 200 foot tall waterfalls. The trail was on private property, but I believe the falls are on public property. Previously this property was a tropical nursery that the owners just got too old to run and their children did not want to continue the business.



The day we went was sunny, but it either rained that morning, or the day before. Because the humidity was so high, it made the temperature seem even hotter. They said it was supposed to be about 88 degrees out, but it seemed much warmer. There were times the mud was so deep, it almost sucked your shoes right off your feet! They did supply bug spray, bottled water, snacks and mud boots. The mud boots looked very uncomfortable, so we decided to just go in our sneakers. I just knew that the sneakers were going to have to go into a laundry load by themselves.

The trek up the mountain took about an hour with short breaks in between for photos. We were told about some of the trees as we went along. Every few weeks they have to chop the foliage out so they can keep the path open to reach the falls. Matthew assured us that there were no snakes, poison ivy, or poison oak and encouraged us to hold onto trees or vines as we did our hike. We needed to do that,

because the trek was very slippery. I found myself looking at the feet of the person in front of me, so I could decide where a good place would be for me to take my next step. We had to navigate through very uneven terrain, slippery and loose rocks, and gnarly roots and cross water filled creeks that could trip you up along the way. And then there was the very slick mud...

When we came to Manoa Falls we stopped and took time out for water, snacks, photos and reapplying bug spray. It was a beautiful valley of lush rainforest. It is difficult to imagine that ferns grow 8-10 feet tall! The flowers and trees are exotic and only see them in pictures. We were lucky to get so many gorgeous photos of some of the plants as it would be difficult if you were hiking in a downpour. We were very lucky that it did not rain during our hike. The paperwork encouraged people to bring their own rain ponchos, and I recommend making sure you brought one along.



It also took about an hour to hike down the bamboo forest trail. I use the word "trail" loosely here. We literally had to hold onto bamboo trees in order to keep our footing. It almost was like we were using two walking sticks, but every step you had to grab two new sticks. It was around noon as we were descending the mountain, but it was so thick with bamboo, it almost looked as though we were walking at dusk! At one point I looked just a few feet away from me to the right, and realized we were walking on the sheer edge of the mountain!



I felt it was well worth the money for this tour. It was definitely for more adventurous people that don't seem to mind heat and humidity. If you think you won't get muddy, or can avoid it, you are wrong. I tried to keep from getting muddy and I had spots of mud up past my knees. Two people slipped and fell onto their backsides, but were not injured. This trek is definitely not for people with bad asthma, bad knees or poor stamina. But it was very cool to see exotic plants growing in the most perfect conditions for them where they could grow as huge as they possibly could. I will do this again if we go back to Aulani.

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Until next month, you can follow us on a variety of social networks.

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/TravelOnADream>

ToaDers - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/4ToaD/>

ToaD Runners -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ToaDRunners/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TravelOnADream>

Pinterest - <https://pinterest.com/travelonadream/>

Wordpress - <http://toadstravels.com/>