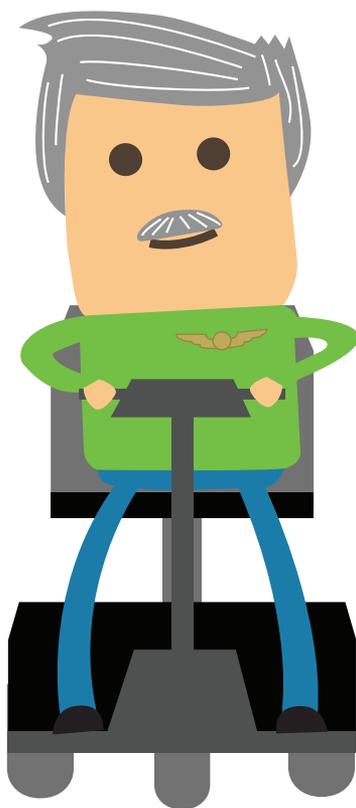


TRAVEL TIPS

BY AMIGO

"Travel is the
only thing you
buy that makes
you richer"

-Moorish Proverb



PACKING & PLANNING

We've gathered tips from Amigo owners and accessible travel resources, and even included a few tips of our own. With a bit of pre-planning and help from this guide, your trip will be off to a great start.

Never pack something you haven't worn before –

you may find your new shoes too uncomfortable or your new jacket too flimsy.

Dryer sheets remove static from your hair and clothing and make your suitcase smell great without taking extra space.

Store your packing list in your suitcase for your next trip and edit it each time you travel, deleting the things you don't need or adding what you wish you would have taken.

Take 1,000 milligrams of dried ginger root (available in health food stores) before you travel if you are prone to motion sickness.

Pack half of your belongings in your suitcase, and the other half in your travel companion's suitcase. If one piece of luggage gets lost, you will both have some of your belongings until the airline tracks down your lost article -- this can sometimes take a day or two.

Books and e-readers are nice, but audiobooks are even better.

Carrying an iPod or mp3 player is easier than lugging around a book or a Kindle.

"Once a year, go someplace you've never been before."

-Dalai Lama

BEFORE YOU GO:

Consider your needs and be very specific. If a destination cannot meet your needs, you may need to switch your plans or arrange for additional assistance.

Have your equipment serviced before your trip. Small tweaks or replacement parts may help you avoid problems down the road.

Adaptors are important when your “legs” run on batteries! Using the wrong adaptor can ruin electronics – Amigo recommends a power converter that is rated at 200 watts minimum.

Mark your mobility equipment clearly so others do not assume it is offered by the airport or attraction.

Consider shipping baggage to your destination for hassle-free travels.

Accidents happen during travel – it is a good idea to bring a small set of tools just in case minor repairs are necessary.

Always bring 2-3 spare keys in case one gets lost or broken.



ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

TOP TRAVEL APPS *(and they're all free!)*

FlightStats

FlightStats is a real-time flight status and airport tracking application. You can access flight status by flight number, check flight timelines and much more.

Google Translate

Break through language barriers with Google Translate. Translate 90 languages with voice, camera, keyboard or handwriting.

Urbanspoon

Find nearby restaurants with honest ratings and reviews by consumers and food critics.

Yelp

Yelp is your local guide to finding just the place to eat, shop, drink, relax and play.

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."
- St. Augustine



ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

Tips for traveling from the U.S. Department of State (enter “disabilities” in the search bar for specific information):

www.travel.state.gov

Travel tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/disability

Reviews of travel experiences from people who have disabilities:

www.gimponthego.com

Americans with Disabilities Act design standards:

www.ada.gov

MODES OF TRANSPORT

FINDING AN ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL AGENT



It's important to prepare for the unexpected, and an experienced travel agent can help you ensure that anywhere you go is accessible for your needs. A travel agent who specializes in serving travelers with disabilities can be your best resource for planning an accessible trip.

Ask friends who travel if they've had success with an accessible agent. An experienced travel agent should first interview you to understand what type of trip you are looking for. Next, the agent should ask relevant questions about your abilities, fatigue level and any special equipment you may require -- be very specific about your needs during the interview process.

Keep your travel agent's information with you on your trip in case unexpected challenges arise.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- How long have you been an accessible travel agent?
- How many clients with mobility challenges have you serviced?
- What type of training have you had in accessible travel?
- May I speak with some of your past clients who can provide a reference?



ACCOMMODATIONS

A good night's sleep is very important while traveling – these tips will help you find accommodations that are accessible and comfortable:

Be specific. Don't just ask for an accessible room. Request the features you need, like lever door handles and faucets.



Stick with it. Once you find a hotel chain that works for you, stick with it – hotel chains are likely to have similar accessibility features at varying locations.

Call ahead. Online booking sites are great for research, but it is best to call the property directly when discussing accessibility. On-site reservation agents have first hand knowledge about access features at their property.

Avoid yes or no questions. Ask the clerk to describe the accessible features in the room. If you anticipate that you may need more space, request that excess furniture be removed from your room before your arrival.

Ask for specific measurements to make sure your equipment will fit where it needs to.

“Confirmed” and “guaranteed” can mean very different things – make sure your reservation agent can block off the room that suits your needs.

The term “first floor” does not always mean street level – if necessary, ask for a room on the “ground floor.”

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Getting around in a new city can be tricky enough when traveling, so be sure to plan ahead if you are using mobility equipment.



Car travel: Use a portable travel POV/scooter, like the Amigo TravelMate, for quick and easy rest stop breaks – pack meals and snacks to reduce the number of necessary stops.

Bus: Contact the carrier as far in advance as possible to make arrangements – many offer assistance with boarding, luggage and retrieving mobility devices.

Train: Choose the carrier that best meets your needs. For overnight routes, request a private bedroom and confirm that your car has wide enough doorways and that the switches are at an accessible height.



AIR TRAVEL

Airline and airport personnel are fully equipped and trained to assist you as needed, but being prepared and taking a few extra steps will help to lessen stress on your trip:

Review the airline's Contract of Carriage before booking your flight. Read the disability section carefully, which describes the airline's obligation to you upon purchasing a ticket.

Visit www.seatguru.com for plane seat maps. Use this website to determine the best seat to reserve before booking your flight.

Select your seats ASAP. If you need a premium seat, tell the agent when you make your reservation rather than at the airport -- other passengers may take those seats 24 hours before the flight on the airline's website.

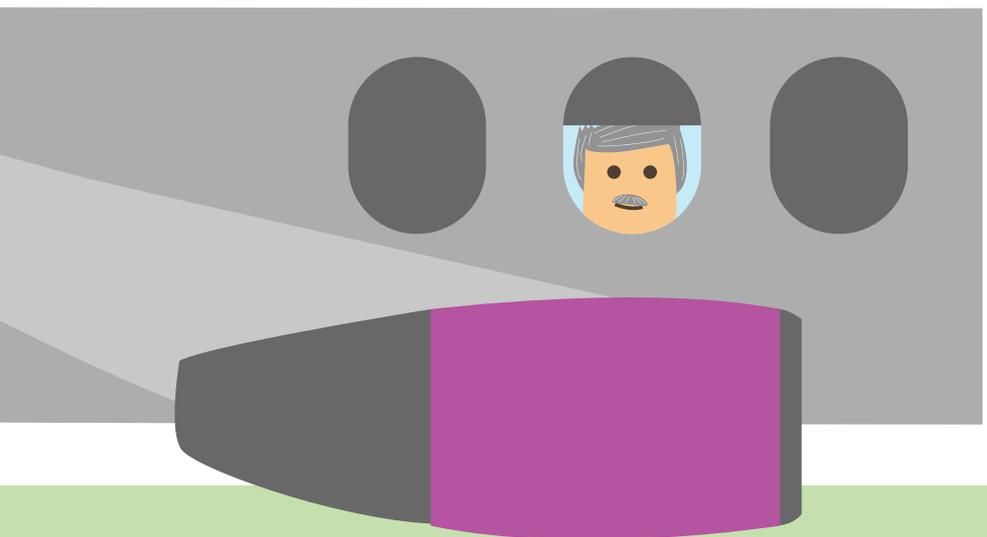
Always try to get direct flights. If a transfer is necessary, it is easier for the airline if you use their wheelchair and have your Amigo sent direct. Be sure to have your Amigo checked as plane side luggage so it will be delivered to you at your final destination.

Double check your Amigo when it is delivered to you. It is important to check for damage and to make sure you have all the necessary parts.

Inform the airline that you will need special assistance. When making reservations, make sure the service personnel know exactly what kind of assistance you will need -- the more they know, the more they will be able to help you.

Confirm the airline's battery policy before your scheduled departure date. Non-spillable, sealed batteries are approved for commercial airline travel. Amigo batteries are non-spillable sealed lead acid or lithium-ion and are approved for airline travel. With most airlines, lithium-ion batteries are required to be transported onboard the plane as carry-on luggage.

A special handling tag can alert airport personnel to the special handling requirements of your Amigo -- visit www.myamigo.com and click "SERVICE" near the top of the page for a predesigned tag.



NAVIGATING AIRPORT SECURITY

- **Security screening is required for all airline passengers.** Your Amigo will be inspected first -- a mirror is often used to inspect underneath the platform, followed by a series of questions regarding any recent maintenance (within the past 48 hours) of your Amigo.
- **A TSA representative will then use a hand-wand to perform a security pat down.** Upon passing screenings, drive through the metal detectors on your Amigo and you're on your way!

If you are uncomfortable with a public screening, you can request a private screening area.

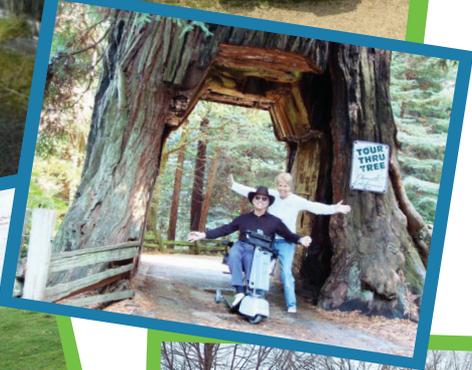
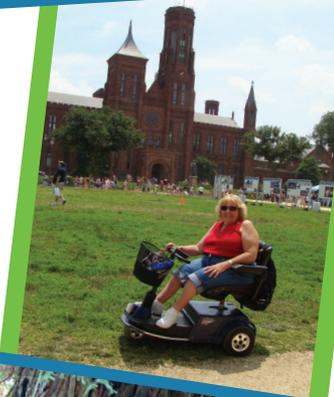


SEA TRAVEL

As accessibility expert Shelley Peterman Schwarz says, "Cruises are an absolutely wonderful way for people with limitations and their companions to travel. We unpack once, sit back and relax, and the beautiful places come to us!" Here are some questions to keep in mind when researching a cruise line that fits your needs:

- **Are all cabins fully POV/scooter accessible? If not, are accessible cabins available?**
- **Are all public restrooms handicap accessible?**
- **Does the pool have a lift?**
- **Will my POV/scooter fit in the ship's elevators and doorways?**
- **Are ramps available on all decks?**

Many cruise lines offer accessibility information on their websites. Before reserving space on a cruise ship, contact the cruise line with any additional questions you may have.



Amigo Owners



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Sign up for our monthly Friendly Wheels newsletter at:
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