

Traveling with a Toddler

This article is very specific for those of you who are considering the thought of traveling with an infant or toddler. I have seen a few travelers do so. Perhaps you used to travel and you really want to get started again except now you are a parent. Should you travel with a toddler? I am not here to tell you what to do. I can only give my opinion.

The only way I would consider traveling with a toddler is if I had a consistent caregiver that traveled with me to provide care for my little one while I was at work. In this situation, I believe one could travel successfully with good nationwide health coverage and transitioning techniques used to make the kid feel more comfortable in their new surroundings. Before leaving I would research local hospitals and child resources.

On the other hand, I would not recommend traveling with an infant/toddler without a caregiver traveling with you. These first few years are their formative years. Little ones need a consistent home with routine and boundaries that make them feel safe. If they do go to daycare, they need to have the same caregiver to bond with them. During these first few years, they will form their eating habits, develop their beginning self-esteem, and learn how to be in the world. We need to give them a good start.

If you do decide to travel with a toddler and you don't have a caregiver with you, make sure to do lots of research before you go regarding childcare in the area. Don't rely on the agency to find childcare. The quality of care differs greatly from place to place. Where your kid/s spends their day is too important to put in the hands of just anyone. A few online resources you can try are www.childcarefinder.org, and www.daycare.com. Furthermore, www.craigslist.com has a childcare section for most major city locations where people share information about childcare in the area. The key is to network, network, network and keep your standards high. Make sure to show up early to check out daycare places before making your final decision. Then transition your child into the new daycare slowly starting with a few visits, then a couple of half days until they seem to feel comfortable.

If you are traveling with a toddler right now, I would love to hear from you and what your experiences have been like. Next month, I will talk about what to look for in daycare for an infant or toddler.