

Political Perks

Does anyone like hospital politics? I don't think so. Yet, it still goes on. Anytime a group of people have to work together there will be politics. However, travelers are often regarded as visitors and thus, experience less political involvement than members of the group. Being a visitor has its perks. While only 9% of travelers travel with the sole purpose of avoiding hospital politics (according to a small sample survey I did recently of 91 traveling nurses), most will tell you it is a great advantage.

Of course, occasionally travelers will create their own politics. One time, I knew two travelers, Sam and Tim. They worked in the same department and shared a locker. Over time, they confided in each other regarding their pay rate. The next morning, Sam called his travel company and began making demands based on the fact that Jim made more money. Tim had shared this information with Sam in confidence. Tim was hoping it might help Sam learn how and what to negotiate for in the future. Tim ended up feeling embarrassed that his company knew he was sharing secrets and causing trouble. They ended up becoming bitter enemies and had to continue sharing a locker. The entire department knew about the incident and participated in making it worse.

You may not be able to avoid politics all the time, but you can at least position yourself (as a traveler) in such a way as to avoid some of the cross fire. Personally, I never traveled for the political perks, but I certainly enjoyed them.