

Planes, trains and automobiles

# Travel tips for holiday trips make season safer

By Terri Welch  
The Battalion

One way or another, most of us will travel this holiday season and there are several things to keep in mind.

**Automobiles**  
The time has come once again to visit Aunt Francine for the holiday season, so you pack your car with everything imaginable and it takes your little brother sitting on top of the trunk to get it closed.

Traveling by car can not only be frustrating, but very dangerous.

It is a well-known fact that Christmas is a time for celebration and relaxation. Along with this idea, people tend to have a few drinks here and there.

Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety says the leading cause of deaths related to car accidents is drinking and driving.

"Even if you're not drunk," he said, "you shouldn't drive after you've been drinking."

Cox also said the second leading cause of deaths related to automobiles is excessive speed.

"Especially during bad weather conditions, drivers should slow down," he said. "Braking might be tricky in snow and rain. Just do everything slower."

If the weather seems as if it might disturb your driving, Cox

suggests not to go.

If it is absolutely necessary to be on the road, then pack a blanket, flashlight and some light snacks in case of any problems.

"It is a rarity that things that drastic happen," said Cox. "But if you are an A&M student and traveling to somewhere like Lubbock, then it could be possible."

Finally, if you will be heading out during the holidays either for a long distance trip or just to shop, Cox said to where your safety belt.

"This is the third leading cause of deaths," he said.

"Although 69 percent of the people in the state are smart enough to wear their safety belts, there are those who are in the other 31 percent who aren't smart enough."

The state is shooting for 75 percent of the people to be wearing safety belts by the time 1992 rolls.

That is also the national goal, said Cox, and they want to help reach that goal.

**Planes**

If you are planning to travel by airplane, there are certain things to remember, especially during the holidays.

"It is definitely more advantageous," said Ellen Morton, a travel consultant for Aggieland Travel. "Flying takes less time and you don't have to buy your meals - it is included in the price."

Once you have made the decision to travel by plane, be sure to make your reservations one month in advance. If during the holidays, Morton said to make them at least two months in advance.

The airlines only allow two checked pieces of luggage and two carry-on bags, Morton said. Also, be sure to consider gifts you might be taking along. If they are breakable, it is a good idea to send them through United Parcel Service first.

"Also be sure to check in at least 45 minutes before departure," she said. "The airlines have a right to give away anyone's seat who has not checked in 30 minutes before the flight."

If air travel does not usually agree with your body, Morton suggests to eat before the trip and take some type of stomach medicine on board with you.

Remember that there is no smoking on flights four hours or less, which is most domestic flights.

**Trains**

A less frequented means of travel happens to be one of the oldest means...the train. It is not something that crosses our minds a lot; however, it is one of the most advantageous, said Dee Snyder, a student at American University and a public affairs intern with Amtrak.

"Traveling by train gets you right downtown," she said, "whereas airports do not. You also see beautiful scenery that can't be seen any other way."

There are special services provided on trains, Snyder said, such as dining cars and lounge cars that make long distances more comfortable while someone else is doing the driving.

It is also possible to have your own bedroom and bathroom on the train, for an additional charge.

"It's really nice and it's fun," said Snyder.

"It is also a romantic thing to do, if your boyfriend or girlfriend travels with you."

Even if you aren't traveling overnight, it is a good idea to take everything you might need on board with you because checked luggage is not accessible, she said, especially medication.

"Be sure to check in at least 30 minutes prior to departure to allow time to purchase your ticket and check in luggage," said Snyder.

Also during the holidays, there is increased travel similar to the airlines, so Snyder suggests buying tickets early.

Travel agencies can assist with train tickets as well as air line tickets, said Morton.

"Especially in College Station, we get a lot of calls for Amtrak," she said.

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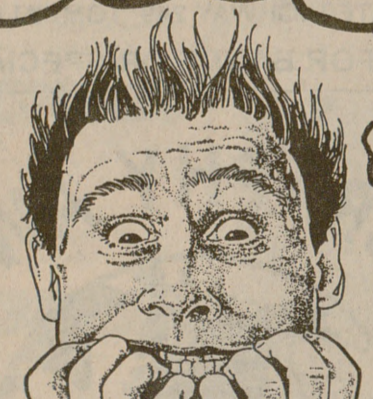
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**Video Reviews**  
**Christmas videos break-up vacation boredom**  
By Polly Sandford  
The Battalion  
**"Scrooged"**  
"Scrooged" is a contemporary take on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Bill Murray plays Frank Cross, the perfect adaptation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Cross is the president of a major television network who is mean, nasty, uncaring and unforgiving with a sadistic sense of humor.  
The movie starts with a preview of a live Christmas special that Cross's network will air on Christmas Eve. To get viewers to watch his movie, he scares them with acid rain and drive-by shootings. Bobcat Goldthwait, an employee, points out that it seems like the "Manson Family Christmas Special" and subsequently gets fired.  
Murray begins to be humbled when he is visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve. The first ghost, the Ghost of Christmas Past, is a maniacal cab driver who takes Cross back to when he was a 4-year-old boy who received four pounds of veal from his father on Christmas.  
The Ghost of Christmas Future is a tall, dark-caped ghoulish figure that takes him into the horror of the future.  
The movie, through its comedic storyline, is an important reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Murray learns the hard way, and the viewer might realize that there really is more to life after finals.  
**"Christmas in Connecticut"**  
The storyline of "Christmas in Connecticut" pivots around the Christmas spirit of sharing and giving, but it isn't about that. This movie from Hollywood's Golden Age is about a columnist who devises a plan to keep her job.  
Barbara Stanwyck plays Elizabeth Lane, a feature writer for *Smart Housekeeping*, a monthly magazine. Her column portrays her as a happy wife, mother and homemaker who is glamorous in her kitchen on a farm in Connecticut, cooking gourmet meals with an 8-month-old baby in her arm.  
To her readers, she's the finest and most exemplary mother and wife in America. But she's got everyone fooled, including her publisher, Mr. Yardley, played by Sydney Greenstreet. Lane is really a smart-talking city girl from New York who gets her recipes from her boyfriend who lives on a farm in Connecticut.  
Yardley, wanting to spread Christmas cheer and increase circulation, invites himself and Navy man Jefferson Jones to a Christmas dinner in a real home - Lane's home.  
Lane must now conjure up a husband, a farm and a baby, and get a few quick lessons in gourmet cooking.  
The plot thickens when "married" Lane falls in love with the engaged Jones.  
Stanwyck portrays the character Lane well. She's typical Stanwyck: glamorous, sophisticated and funny. Watching Lane become "Superwoman" is a small challenge for her.

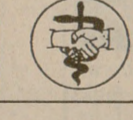
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