



IndieTravelPodcast.com
Sweet advice for independent travellers

Title

Transcript 009

April 2007

Craig: My name's Craig.

Linda: And I'm Linda.

Craig: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast at Indietravelpodcast.com.

Linda: This week's show was recorded in Salisbury, in England and we're going to be giving you some up to date travel advice for flying within Europe.

Craig: The rules are changing all the time, so we know it's a bit confusing, but a few days ago we were heading from Graz, in Austria back to London Stansted in England and picked up some information about air travel which we wanted to share with you.

Linda: This is a three page, A4 document called "Prohibited Articles" and we thought we'd run through the important items for your edification.

Craig: The first thing on our list is all firearms, replica and imitation firearms, parts of firearms, airpistols, rifles and pellet guns.

Linda: Or a toy gun, because you're not allowed those either.

Craig: No, water guns ... no.

Linda: No signal flare pistols either.

Craig: No, bolt and nail guns, no ... so builders, you've got to leave those at home.

Linda: And no ball-bearing guns or spear guns.

Craig: Yep. Catapults – right out. Harpoon and spear guns – no.

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Linda: Animal humane killers ... nup.

Craig: So if you're a rat-catcher, for instance, you may not be boarding the flight.

Linda: With your equipment. And, definitely leave your lighters shaped like a firearm at home.

Craig: Yes. Since we all carry those around all of the time. But, it's not all about projectile weapons. Here we go, some other things you cannot take on board.

Linda: The next section is pointed, edged weapons and sharp objects. Which includes axes, arrows, crampons, ice-skates, meat cleavers, open razors, scalpels and throwing stars.

Craig: Yes. Knives, including ceremonial knives, sabres, swords and sword-sticks are also not allowed.

Linda: You're also not allowed scissors with blades of more than six centimetres long. However, my scissors, which have five-centimetre blades, were confiscated, so any scissors – probably not the best idea to take them on board.

Craig: That's right.

Linda: The next section is blunt instruments – so that means any type of bat, like softball bats, cricket bats, golf clubs, hockey sticks, and no canoe paddles – sorry about that.

Craig: Yes, just in case you were preparing for that emergency landing – sorry guys, it's not going to work. But you also can't take skateboards – I'm just imagining this sort of 12-year-old kid, looking like Dennis the Menace carrying his skateboard on board and attempting to damage someone with it.

Linda: And you're not allowed any pool cues, fishing rods, or martial arts equipment.

Craig: Oh, I love the list of martial arts equipment. Knuckledusters, clubs, coshes, rice flails, num chucks, kubatons, and kubasaunts.

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Linda: And that's just ... for example.

Craig: Yeah, now I've done martial arts for the nine years, and I've never even heard of the last two things on the list.

Linda: Well, you never know, you might have them in your hand luggage – so make sure you don't.

Craig: And surprisingly enough, once again, you can't take any explosive substances on board, or chemical substances that that could be mixed to make explosives.

Linda: And, this includes absinthe. Now, this isn't specified, but it does say you're not allowed to take alcoholic beverages exceeding 70% by volume. So, leave that green absinthe at home.

Craig: Yeah, and leave the moonshine behind too.

Linda: Sorry about that guys. Ah, next section: chemical and toxic substances. This includes, you're not allowed to take any infected blood on board. So, if you're a bit sick, technically I suppose that means you can't fly. Sorry. But anyway, you're not allowed to take poisons, radioactive material or fire extinguishers.

Craig: Yep, radioactive material is also a big no-no. So, you budding nuclear engineers out there – just stay at home.

Linda: All right, and the last section is the things that can't be placed in hold baggage – includes explosives, gases, flammable liquids ...

Craig: And grenades.

Linda: Grenades, vehicle fuel system components which have contained fuel, and again, that infected blood.

Craig: So, if you're trying to get on board a plane, good luck. There is quite a bit of confusion over if you can take liquids on board a plane or not. Inside the EU, the standards are, you can take liquids and liquid gel pastes, but they have to be

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packaged in containers that are under a hundred mls. So, if you're going away for a weekend, we really recommend repackaging your shampoos, conditioners and suchlike into small plastic containers that are clearly marked as having a one hundred ml volume.

Linda: You also need to be able to fit all of your liquids into a clear plastic bag. The plastic bag can't be more than one litre in volume, and it needs to be resealable. It's okay, if you need to take a lot of liquids, you can put them all in your check-in luggage. But the things you want to carry on the plane, must be under a hundred mls in volume, and they must be in this plastic bag.

Craig: If you've got special needs, then a note from your doctor, should get you through. But, don't forget – peanut butter, even crunchy peanut butter, is counted as a gel paste liquid.

Linda: Yes ... Well, I think that's about it for us for today.

Craig: Before we leave you I'd like to mention a couple of other travel podcasts that might interest you. Geography for Travelers by Alan Lew can be found at TravelGeography.info. Alan's a researcher focussing on tourism and travel and it's quite it a good listen when you're in a serious mood. I especially liked his series on Nepal last year and how tourism is shaping things there.

I also want to mention Chris Christensen's amateur traveller podcast. It's at www.amateurtraveler.com, and that's traveler in the American style, with only one L. His stories and interviews, well, we've been listening to them for over a year now, and they're always fun and motivating. I've also started writing a little bit for Chris, so you can find some of my written articles at www.amateurtraveler.com. Links for both of the sites will be in our show notes and resources page which is at www.indietravelpodcast.com.

Linda: All right. Well, that's us for the week. Thanks to you, our listeners -- feel free to drop us an email at mail@indietravelpodcast.com -- and, until next week, travel well.

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