

Gadgets for Obsessive Compulsives

Town & country both play host to a different kind of tourist: streptococcus and listeria, hepatitis. So be you cool Carrie or neurotic Nellie, have a look at some of the germ warfare in the travel market.



The Handler

Keep your hands off the germs with this little fella: at the push of a button, the palm-sized ergonomic device flips out a skinny arm to grip any diameter door handle and yank it open - up to 60lbs of pull with minimal effort. Doubles as a key chain; cannot be used to shake hands. USD 10.95 + shipping; handlerusa.com.

The Million-Germ-Eliminating Travel Toothbrush Sanitiser

If the thought of a dirty toothbrush makes you want to gag, slip your bristles in here for a blast of germicidal UV technology - the same kind trusted to sanitise hospital instruments - and in less than seven minutes your brush is cleaner than your teeth. The VIOLight device has a 99% kill rate, automatic shut-off, a UV bulb rated for 2,000 hours of use on two AA batteries and packs easily in a suitcase/toiletry bag. USD 29.95; hammacher.com



Portable 48-Second Water Purifier



Time magazine named it one of the Inventions of the Year: a portable handheld water-purification device that uses ultraviolet light to purify 16oz of clear water per use in a 48 seconds (or 32oz of water in 90 seconds). This 8oz, electric-toothbrush size number kills nasties like giardia and cryptosporidium, hepatitis and poliovirus, Salmonella and E. coli. It follows US Environmental

Protection Agency protocols for microbiological water purifiers, but best of all, it leaves no swimming pool after-taste like those chemical purifiers. Four AA batteries can treat up to 150 16oz containers of water before they need changing. Includes carrying case. USD 99.95 + shipping; hammacher.com

Travel-Ease

Bargain-hunters, deal-makers, discount-diehards - if you like to save a bob or two, consider the following programmes.

Orient Rewards

What is it A loyalty card programme with two different versions for residents of Thailand and Malaysia. Get a discount of up to 70% on room rates, as well as discounts at spas/



wellness facilities, golf courses and restaurants. The Thai package covers hotels in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phuket, Koh Samui and Koh Chang, while the Malaysian package covers businesses in the 14 Malaysian states. Along with your personalised card comes a thick stack of transferable vouchers for comp rooms, discounts (up to 50%) on F&B and other services at thirty select partner hotels spas, etc., in Malaysia and Thailand.

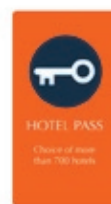
How it works Call the service centre at +66 (0)2 258 9981 (Thailand)/+603 2380 9808 (Malaysia), or go to orientreward.net to purchase the card and book services (USD 134.25). Offices opening soon in Phuket, Chiang Mai, and Kota Kinabalu.

Who it's For Travellers (especially business types) seeking reduced rates and comp services at reputable establishments. Membership is yearly, and ever evolving as more partners are added to the circle.



AIR PASS

From USD 399
to USD 599
for bookings for 2010
departures only



HOTEL PASS

Choice of room
from 700 hotels



TOUR PASS

Hidden variety of
sight and transport

Visit Asia Pass

What it is The Visit ASEAN Pass (VAP; *VisitAsean.travel*) eases travel between the following countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

How it works Book all three or any of the components online or at a travel agent and get instant confirmation: the AirPass (travel between three ASEAN destinations for USD 399); the HotelPass (use the ASEAN search engine to source 700+ hotels in the region); and the TourPass (sign up for tours of ASEAN's countless attractions, facilitated by bona fide, nationally recognised tour operators).

Who It's For Travellers, both residents and non-residents of Asia, wanting one-stop-shopping for transportation in the region.