

GO

TRAVEL MISTAKES • MERCEDES GLE COUPE

You Did What?

Five common travel mishaps—and how to avoid them

Even the savviest jet-setter can make simple travel mistakes. We've seen frequent fliers turned away at the gate for passport issues and watched grown men scream at an automated answering service over booking mix-ups. Start the New Year right and resolve to travel like a pro.



– 1 –
NOT CHECKING YOUR PASSPORT

Just checking your passport's expiration date is not enough. Check that it is valid for six months after your return flight. Countries like China, Russia and the UAE require six months, and twenty-six European nations require passports to be valid for three months after travel. **Make sure you have at least one blank page in your passport.**

Some countries will not allow you in if they have to stamp a page that is already marked. (We have no idea why.) If you find yourself with an expired passport, you can shell out \$60

to cut new passport processing time to two to three weeks. But if you're planning to board a plane in less than two weeks, **make an appointment at your local passport agency by calling 877-487-2778.**



And, of course, ensure that you have the proper visa for the country you are visiting. Remember that you must be ticketed exactly as your passport reads or you won't be allowed to board your flight. (Visit travel.state.gov for a list of destinations that require the extra six months and visas.)

– 2 –
NOT TAKING HARD COPIES OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Phone battery dead? Phone lost? No Internet connection? Good luck finding your hotel, car reservation, etc. Create and print a list of pertinent phone numbers, confirmation numbers, addresses and flight

information. It's also a good idea to have a copy of your passport and health insurance card.

– 3 –
NOT ARRIVING WITH CASH IN HAND

Yes, we've all heard that exchange rates at the cash windows in the airport are awful. **What's worse? Getting in a cab with no cash and wandering around a foreign country looking for a cash machine.**

CHECK PLANE SIZE BEFORE PACKING A CARRY-ON. SOME ROUTES FLY SMALL AIRCRAFT WITH OVERHEAD BINS THAT DON'T ACCOMMODATE STANDARD CARRY-ONS. (A CERTAIN TRAVEL WRITER ONCE CLUNG TO HER LOUIS VUITTON EXPLAINING THAT IT SIMPLY COULD NOT BE PUT UNDER WITH ALL THAT DIRTY SAMSONITE.)



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ACCIDENTALLY CHECKING YOUR VALUABLES

You never know when you might be forced to gate-check your hand luggage. **Place your jewelry, iPad, camera, house and car keys, medication, and anything else you can't live without in a removable pouch inside your carry-on.**

This way if you must surrender your carry-on to a flight attendant at the last minute because the overhead bins are full, you can remove the smaller bag and keep an eye on it beneath the seat in front of you.



- 5 -

BOOKING ALL OF YOUR TRAVEL ONLINE

A robot can't help you when you miss your flight, your luggage is lost or the hotel doesn't have your reservation.

(Really, the list goes on and on.) The travel agent is not dead and is your best resource when something goes wrong. If you're a DIY-er, at least book directly through the hotel and airline.

—Kim-Marie Evans

Stay Fierce

The Mercedes GLE Coupe is a brawler of a sport-ute



Mercedes-Benz might once have had a staid reputation, but in the last decade the company has issued a steady stream of hot rods that are all about rakish style and pugnacious fun. Customers can choose between sober and raucous. The respectable E-series sedan, for instance, can also be had in the form of the immortally swoopy CLS, a much-imitated, Italian-looking four-door coupe.

Now we have the new GLE Coupe, a breathtaking brawler of a sport-ute. Its streamlined roof demands that you duck your head while entering, but once you're behind the wheel, it's all leathery refinement from the tech-world school of interior design. The four-seat GLE might seem to be all about aggressive good looks, but it does ply the roads with savoir-faire. Handling and braking are quick and sharp for such a hulk. The GLE450 AMG version that I drove put 362 horses to the ground, and that seemed plenty good. (The "S" version throws down 577 hp.) A snarly exhaust

MERCEDES-BENZ GLE450 AMG COUPE

Base Price: \$65,000

Price as Tested: \$89,605

Drivetrain: 3.0-liter, turbocharged, 362-hp all-wheel drive

EPA Mileage: 17 city/23 highway

adds one more note of exhilaration.

The base price is \$65,000, but before you secure financing on that amount, have a look at the extensive options list. Nothing would be appreciated more than the Blind Spot Assist, which puts a wonderful bird's-eye view of the car on your dash screen, thereby easing otherwise ominous parking-lot situations. It is part of a great array of electronic guardian angels

hovering over the vehicle.

Is this Mercedes right for you? Well, if you're more about hauling, or if the rear passengers need more space, the more wagon-like GLE SUV is the way to go. For similarly striking lines but in an agile, compact body, check out the Mercedes GLA class. But somebody's going to like the GLE Coupe just as it is. Take one look at the powerful, bad-ass SUVs now patrolling the Post Road and it's clear Mercedes has aimed this ferocious thing right at the heart of Fairfield County. Folks will surely know when you've arrived. —Chris Hodenfield

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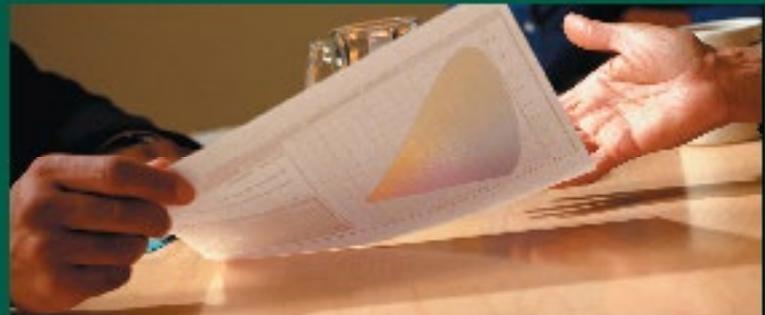
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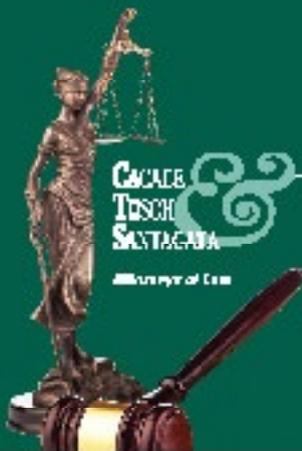


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