

What's the Problem?



theMOMMYOLOGIST®

Planning a vacation? Ask these important questions first:

Here are 15 questions you should ask yourself before deciding on the perfect destination. Once you have these answered, it makes narrowing things down a lot easier.

- 1. What exactly do I want to do?** — Seems simple enough, but I can't tell you how many people settle on a place to visit without knowing what they want to do on vacation, only to be disappointed after arriving.
- 2. Is being right on the beach/close to the mountain/inside a city important to me?** — Answering these questions will instantly narrow down your vacation search to a more manageable number of options.
- 3. Do I want to be able to walk everywhere once I get there... or am I okay to seek other forms of transportation?** — This question is really about how much effort you are willing to put in once you arrive at your destination.
- 4. Is this trip about sitting and relaxing, or am I hoping to take in the sights and experience a little culture?** — This is all about the tone of the trip... once that's clear, your best destination will be clear, as well.
- 5. How much is in my budget?** — A no-brainer, but this one often gets overlooked.
- 6. Is flying going to be a huge pain? Would it be better to go somewhere within driving distance?** — Remember, your trip doesn't begin until you get there! Try to make that part easy if possible.
- 7. What happens if it rains?** — Is sitting in the room/rental going to be okay? Or is it essential to have a movie theater near by?
- 8. How long can I stay (or how long do I want to stay)?** — This answer will carry over into travel arrangements, budget, and even the type of vacation you can have.
- 9. Do I care about the food?** — Are you ready for exotic cuisine? Or is it important to have a McDonalds nearby?
- 10. Am I cool with the family cramming into a hotel room, or do we need to find a place that offers plenty of home/condo/cottage rentals to spread out?** — Obviously, your options might be limited if you have a big family (or picky family) that needs a larger area to spend the night.
- 11. When do I want to travel? Do I have time to make the reservations... or maybe even renew a passport?** — Sometimes you might be ready to go now, but the arrangements aren't in place. This can be a major limiting factor.
- 12. How much stuff do I need to pack? Do I need a nice outfit for a fancy dinner? How about rugged gear for hiking?** — Every vacation has surprises, but it's nice to predict most of the scenarios before you go.
- 14. What types of fellow travelers do I want to be surrounded with?** — A trip to Disney World means being surrounded by lots of families with excited kids. Does that sound good or bad?
- 15. How important is technology to me?** — Are you going to have a signal on your phone? Do you need to make sure the hotel has the movie channels? Make sure to gauge the importance of these details.