



On Our Own in London

# Travel products we've tested

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Hotels](#) | **[Travel products](#)**

One of the benefits of travel writing is the occasional chance to evaluate travel-related products.

Here are our opinions on a couple of products that have been sent our way.

	<p><b>EarPlanes</b></p> <p>If you suffer from ear pain while flying, EarPlane earplugs can help. We tried these a few years ago when the manufacturer sent us some free samples. Since then, we buy a set of Earplanes for every airplane trip we take.</p> <p>The flexible plastic earplugs fit into your ear canal. They allow a gradual change in air pressure as the plane changes altitude, thus reducing pressure-related ear problems. The earplugs also reduce noise.</p> <p>Drawbacks? Getting them into your ear correctly takes a bit of practice and Earplanes can be slightly uncomfortable after a while (not as uncomfortable as the ear pain they prevent, however). Your hearing is somewhat impaired, so conversing with a seatmate is difficult (is this a bad thing?).</p> <p><i>Click on the picture at left to go to the manufacturer's website</i></p>
	<p><b>NoiseBusters headphones</b></p> <p>The headphones that airlines supply aren't the best...and some airlines have the audacity to charge for using headphones too. So when the manufacturer offered free evaluation units, we were interested in trying these noise reducing headphones on a long flight.</p> <p>In non-flight use, we found that the headphones <i>do</i> reduce outside noise interference, especially "droning" background sounds like distant traffic, fans, etc. We could still hear annoying noises (like people talking when we are trying to listen to music!)</p> <p>On an 8 hour flight, we found that the headphones did a good job of stopping the engine noise that is present in the cabin of the plane. The greatest advantage was the improved clarity of the sound coming through the headphones--music, talking, whatever--rather than absolute noise reduction. A crying baby in the next seat back is still going to be a problem, headphones or not.</p> <p>The NoiseBusters were a lot more comfortable than the airline-supplied headsets too. The headphone did not interfere with wearing Earplanes earplugs (see review above). NoiseBusters fold up to a fairly compact size, although, if you are <i>really</i> pressed for space on a trip, you'd have to decide whether they are compact enough...a personal decision.</p> <p><i>Click on the picture at left to go to the manufacturer's website</i></p>
	<p><b>British Airways Club World (business class)</b></p> <p>They've added seats that convert to beds on many British Airways flights. So we've expended a few frequent flier miles to upgrade on our last trip across the Atlantic (no freebies from BA, unfortunately).</p> <p>What a difference! We were able to get 3+ hours sleep on the flight. Upon arrival, we used the well-appointed shower facilities at the Heathrow arrivals lounge, along with a bite to eat from the breakfast buffet. With more time, we could have gotten a massage here too.</p> <p>Another major advantage of Club World were the passes allowing us to avoid the long lines at customs/immigration at Heathrow.</p>