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Feature Story: NoiseBuster, Our New Favorite Travel Accessory

by Kevin Kalley

As Managing Editor for Bestfares.com I travel quite a bit. I'm what one of our favorite airline travel magazines refers to as a "Road Warrior." As such, I'm frequently asked about travel tips and "must-have" travel items. Until recently, plastic, zipper-lock type bags have always been my favorite (for packing damp or soiled items, allowing security personnel to see your toiletry bag contents, and with a plastic straw you can even blow them up to use as a travel pillow - now that so many airlines have removed that little luxury).

But I must admit even those little plastic wonders have been surpassed by my new favorite, NoiseBuster active noise reduction headphones. The science behind these headphones is a little beyond me but simply put, they reduce background noise by somehow coupling low frequency noise waves with their mirror-image waves. They don't just cover up the noise; these lightweight folding headphones actually cancel it out.

You can use them all by themselves, without even plugging them into anything, to cancel out noise from annoyances like lawnmowers or construction crews - handy if your hotel room is not the peaceful haven you hoped for. Where they really shine though is onboard an airplane. Even if you only want to read, doze, or daydream they will dramatically reduce the engine roar and wind-rush sounds, that can be so wearying even on a relatively short flight. On trans-continental or international flights NoiseBuster headphones are even more of a necessity & without them the constant noise can actually be more of a jet lag factor than the number of time zones you're crossing.

They can be used with your personal entertainment systems and an adapter allows you to use them for airline sound systems. No more uncomfortable, hard plastic earplugs that never seem to fit while trying to enjoy the in-flight entertainment. (Was it only mine that always seemed to have a sharp, unfinished edge on at least one of the earplugs?)

Simply donning them is an effective way of quieting an overly chatty seatmate, a polite method that I believe even Ms. Manners would approve of. Should the airlines continue with plans to allow in-flight cell-phone usage (Something they are very likely to do, even though their own surveys show the vast majority of travelers are against the idea) you'll definitely want a pair of NoiseBuster headphones to maintain a semblance of noise-pollution control.

Some headphone systems that offer this technology will set you back around \$300. NoiseBuster Active Noise Reduction Headphones from Pro-Tech communications can be had for less than one-fourth of that price. Order them online at www.protechcommunications.com or toll free at 800-468-8371. A great gift for any "Road Warrior" they'll also be appreciated by the less frequent flyer, after all they can always wear them while they mow the lawn.

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