



1. Bring some extra cash - US dollars will do!

Spending extra money is optional and completely up to you during an all-inclusive vacation, but there will be a few items you might be interested in during your stay. Things like spa treatments, cabana rentals, souvenirs and photo packages come with an added cost.

Gratuities are included in your all-inclusive stay for all resort staff **except butlers, airport transfer drivers, and shore excursion guides.** Sandals do not allow any additional tipping for bar, restaurants, or housekeeping. So, you'll want to remember to tip your drivers and butlers with a few dollars, but no need to do so anywhere else!

2. Book restaurants and spa appointments early

If you want to get into the best restaurants at your resort, book early. Find out what's available online, so when you get there, you have a good idea where you want to eat. The resort staff will help you make those reservations. If you're more of a go-with-the-flow traveler and don't want to make dining reservations, there are plenty of options available without needing prior arrangements, as well.

For spa appointments, the best time to do that is early on in your vacation so you can settle into a more relaxed frame of mind! Especially if you plan on getting massage treatments, those can be more painful than relaxing on sun burnt skin.

3. Bring a thermal water bottle or drink cup

Those cool frothy drinks may look good for a while, but as the sun beats down on them, they will lose their appeal. If you put them in a thermal cup, they will stay nice and cold.

4. Drink bottled water

It's always better to drink bottled water instead of tap water when you're visiting another country.

5. Bring wide reusable straws

There will be plenty to drink, so bringing a reusable straw is a great idea if you want to be environmentally friendly during your stay. Remember to bring WIDE straws, though, so smoothies and frozen drinks will fit through them nicely!

6. Bring evening attire for restaurants

When you're staying at a resort as elegant as Sandals, you will want to dress up for your evening meals! Casual wear and swimsuits with cover-ups are fine during the day, but restaurants will have dress codes that you'll want to be prepared for.

7. Order as much as you want!

Portions at Sandals are not what you would expect from a typical restaurant in the US. They have started offering smaller portions to cut down on waste. If you'd like more, don't be shy about ordering a larger portion, multiple entrees, or second dishes! You can even eat at two different restaurants in one day.



8. Download and install the Sandals app

Sandal's mobile app will keep you up-to-date on opening times and menus at restaurants, available excursions, and resort activities. You will also have access to **the Loop**, an online platform where you can voice compliments, concerns, or requests you have while you are on resort!

9. Check out the mini-fridge

Unlike other hotels and resort, the soda, juice, water, beer, and wine in the mini-fridge are all included in your stay!

10. Bring Lysol wipes

It's a good idea to make sure to wipe down heavily touched surfaces in the room when you get there.

11. Don't bring your own towels

Towels are provided at the pools, so you can save the luggage space for more important items.

12. Bring travel size hair products

If you are particular with your hair products, it's a good idea to bring travel sizes of your favorites with you.

13. Bring a day bag

You'll want to bring a day bag or beach bag for taking your stuff to the pool or out on an excursion. You might be flying home with wet swimsuits, so it's a good idea to throw in a plastic bag for your return trip home.

14. Bring a waterproof phone case

Especially if your phone is doubling as your camera, you'll want to bring a good waterproof case so that you don't miss those photo ops just because you are in the water!

15. Learn a little bit of the native language

"Thank you," "please," "hello," "good morning, afternoon, and evening," are small gestures that will go a long way in showing courtesy to those in service to you. Remember that you are in their country and yet they learned your language to serve you.

16. Be nice!

Don't be the demanding stereotypical American traveler. Show courtesy to not only the staff serving you but to your fellow travelers, as well.

17. Check airport transfer time

Some Sandals Resorts are a short drive to the airport, but others require more time to get to. Find this out beforehand so you are not surprised by a long drive when you arrive.



18. Drink responsibly

Even though it is an all-inclusive, make sure to drink responsibly because you don't want to end up in a foreign hospital.

19. Exchange cash at the front desk

When you get to the resort, you'll be able to exchange any large bills for small ones at the front desk. It will be great to have smaller bills for tipping or shopping.

20. Avoid "Unlimited Vacation Club"

You might see a desk at the resort for an "Unlimited Vacation Club." They may look like they belong, but beware that this might be a timeshare presentation that will waste a lot of your time! It's best to just avoid them all together.

21. Purchase trip insurance

I never go anywhere without a trip insurance policy for any of my travels. Each insurance company and policy offers different coverage. If you can get a Cancel For Any Reason policy, those are going to be your best option for the most unusual and unforeseen circumstances. We always offer our clients insurance options at the time of the vacation quote or within a day of booking the trip.

22. Book your excursions ahead of time

Excursions do have limited availability, so if you know you want to do a particular excursion, let us know so we can help you book it before you go! If your day happens to be rainy, you can switch the excursion to a different day.

If you are looking for a relaxing beach vacation with no agenda, you will be able to check out and book some activities when you arrive, as well, based on current availability.