



bon voyage

Planning a trip with your little one may not be a breeze. Can you beat the challenges like a pro? Take this quiz to find out. by **SHUBHREET KAUR**

BEING a mom is not an easy job. And being a mom on vacation is downright hazardous! Between bulky suitcases, rushed sightseeing and tired tots, it's no wonder most mothers need a vacation to recover from their vacation. Well mommies, we've got your back! Just tick against your most preferred choice and count the responses at the end to find your score. And don't

worry if your results are not what you wanted... Just follow our tips to make the whole process as easy as CHILD's play! (No pun intended!)

1. How long does it take to plan your vacation?

- A. Over a month at least. Travelling with kids is not easy and I need to consider all factors.
- B. Couple of weeks. Deciding the

destination is what takes time. Rest is just ticking things off the list.

- C. Not more than a week. Decide a place, pack light and we are good to go!

2. What is the ideal length of your vacation?

- A. Weekend getaway
- B. 1-2 weeks
- C. 1 month or more

3. What is your preferred mode of travel?

- A. Car. I can carry as much as I want; easier to load-unload.
- B. Train. Faster, no worries about weight limit.
- C. Airplane. Travel far, fast and light.

4. How educational do you want your trip to be for your kids?

- A. Very. Kids should see and learn about other cultures.
- B. Somewhat. They should learn about new places but that is not my primary focus.
- C. Not on top of my list. Isn't travel meant for unwinding?

5. What is your meal plan for the kids while on vacation?

- A. Carry some rice and dal to make khichri for my youngest everyday.
- B. Some cerelac or food jars and buy the rest there.
- C. My kids are old enough. They eat what we eat.

6. What kind of clothes do you pack for your children?

- A. Night suits, tops, skirts and shorts, dresses, socks, caps, hairbands, matching shoes, jackets if it gets cold and more tops and bottoms just in case.
- B. One dress or outfit, tops and bottoms that match and can be used

for layering, one casual and one formal pair of shoes, one cap and one jacket.

- C. Bare necessities. Tops and bottoms that mix and match. Same can be used for wearing outside, sleeping and playing. Maximum 2 pairs of shoes, one jacket with hood.

7. What will you pack for yourself for one week?

- A. At least 14 outfits (2 per day), enough shoes, night suits, vanity case and toiletries kit (No hotel shampoos please!), jewellery, bags and sunglasses.
- B. 7 outfits so I can wash and repeat, night suits, 2-3 pairs of shoes, some make up and toiletries, one sling bag and sunglasses, one long necklace.
- C. 10 clothing items that can mix match with one other, 1 walking and 1 dressy pair of shoes, 1 sling bag, sunglasses, eyeliner, lipstick and sunscreen, and I'm set!

8. How serious are you about visiting all the sights on your vacation?

- A. Everything on the list must be seen, no matter what.
- B. 8 out of 10 sights is also good enough, no pressures.
- C. Just 2 or 3 things that I really want to see.

YOUR TRAVEL-READY QUICK TIPS

- Count the number of bags you are carrying and save the number on your phone.
- The 'pack light rule': All tops match all bottoms = More outfits with less items.
- Pack one toy, crayons and a book in a carry-on bag.
- Keep baby wipes and a sanitizer handy.
- Your carry-on bags should have enough basics to last one whole day in case of lost or delayed check-in luggage.
- Plan your sightseeing with enough breaks. Be prepared for delays.
- Brand your kids with your phone number pasted on their clothes in case they get lost in a crowd.

9. How many baby/kids' essentials do you carry?

- A. Everything—diapers, wipes, all favourites like toys, cups, spoons, toiletries and all medicines.
- B. Some—diapers to last the initial days, travel size toiletries, few toys/books, basic medicines.
- C. Bare minimum—enough diapers for day 1, a favourite toy, all-in-one wash, a lotion, a fever medicine. Rest, buy as needed. ●

➔ Mostly As:

Calm down mommy! We can see the stress vein from here. Yes, it would be ideal to pack your kid's whole room into a suitcase but that also means managing more stuff while hustling through a new place. Remember that the joy of a family vacation is more important than a travel portal's Top 10 list. So, repeat those outfits, let your kids eat outside food once in a while and have a blast!

➔ Mostly Bs:

Moderation is the key for you! You don't want to overburden yourself but unpleasant surprises aren't your thing. You can compromise on few things but you don't want to look for cold medicine at 2 am in a new place. A nice restaurant requires a nice dress but that doesn't mean the same dress can't work for two restaurants. No losing sleep over delays because the kids overslept.

➔ Mostly Cs:

Hold your horses adventure mom! Throw in some bare essentials and you're set to backpack with your tot in tow. You are the queen of light packing as treading on a long multi-city vacation comes easy. You want to explore the city with your family. The must-see list is important, but not worth getting overtired. Your experience becomes more enjoyable with the kids around.