



Living with OI: Travel

Besides an adventuresome spirit, the key to enjoyable travel is getting as much information as possible ahead of time. The following websites and businesses are good places to start. As you develop your itinerary, contact the places you plan to visit to determine if there are any accessibility issues. When working with an airline or travel agent provide clear and specific information about your needs regarding mobility, oxygen, special seating, aisle chairs, diet etc. People who have OI and are experienced world wide travelers recommend traveling with a companion who understands OI.

Medical Travel

Air Care Alliance. www.aircareall.org: The Air Care Alliance is a nationwide league of charitable flying organizations whose volunteer pilot members offer their services flying for health care, patient transport, disaster relief, and other missions of public service. The following link offers a list of organizations such as Mercy Flights, whose volunteers perform public benefit flying:
www.aircareall.org/listings.htm

Vacation and Business Travel

Transportation Security Administration. www.tsa.gov: This is the official US government site for information about airport security. It lists restrictions on items that can or cannot be packed in carry-on or checked luggage.

Flying with Disability. www.flying-with-disability.org: This website presents a wide range of useful information, for every stage of the journey. The goal is to reduce barriers to safe and enjoyable travel for people who have a disability. Detailed information is provided on travel with a wheelchair.

Access-Able Travel Source. www.access-able.com: Presents information on a wide range of travel issues important to people with disabilities including access guides, wheelchair travel, scooter rental, and accessible transportation.

International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers. www.iamat.org, or telephone 716-754-4883: A non-profit organization that advises travelers about health risks, and world wide immunization requirements. This organization can also supply travelers with a list of English speaking physicians outside the United States.

Medic Alert. www.medicalert.org: This is a well-known medical emergency information service. Members pay a yearly fee and wear an ID bracelet. Emergency medical personnel in the United States are trained to contact Medic Alert when they see the ID for a link to the member's medical history.

Travel 0². www.travelo2.com: Information for travelers who require special oxygen delivery service.

Books:

Fodor's Great American Vacations for Travelers with Disabilities. This classic guidebook has been updated regularly since 1994.

Barrier Free Travel: A Nuts and Bolts Guide for Wheelers and Slow Walkers & 101 Accessible Vacations. Both books are written by Candy Harrington, an advocate for accessible travel whose blog www.barrierfreetravels.com offers many helpful travel tips.

OIF Travel. www.oiftravel.com: Take advantage of great travel prices and support the OI Foundation at the same time.

This fact sheet presents examples of websites and publications that may be helpful to people who have OI. Being listed is not an endorsement by the OI Foundation. July 2009