



**7 Travel Tips For**  
**Single Parents**  
**Traveling With Kids**

PRIYA FLORENCE SHAH

## **A Little Bit About Me**

Ahoy, matey, and thanks for subscribing to the [Ahoy Matey newsletter](#). This is the free PDF I promised you when you subscribed.

So, first a little introduction about me. I'm **Priya Florence Shah**, a single mom who lives with my kids (two and four-legged) in Pune, India.



*My child, Eli, and me, in the Maldives*

I've been an online publisher since 2001, and a blogger since 2003. My women's blog, [Naaree.com](#), is currently among the top 100 blogs in India and the top 100 women's blogs worldwide. You can read more about me at [PriyaFlorence.com](#)

I did have a travel website not so long ago called Goa-Beach.com (now defunct), but found it a very narrow niche because, face it, there's only so many times you can travel to Goa.

I started [AhoyMatey.blog](https://AhoyMatey.blog) when I started travelling internationally with my 18-year old.

Till then we travelled in India, staying mostly in timeshares, because they're safe and have many benefits for single parents. I've written about some of those benefits in the article below.

In my newsletter, you'll get my tips for family travel with a focus on responsible and sustainable tourism.

My definition of responsible and sustainable tourism is to make kinder and more eco-friendly choices when travelling, have as little environmental impact as possible on the places I visit, and to leave a place, or the people and animals who live there, better than when I found it.

To connect with me directly, send an email to [priyaflurence@gmail.com](mailto:priyaflurence@gmail.com).

You can also connect on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#).

## **7 Travel Tips For Single Parents Traveling With Kids**

Since being widowed in 2005, a lot of my travel has been as a single parent. As my child didn't have a passport (and didn't get one until recently, thanks to our [outdated passport rules](#)) our travelling before that was restricted to India.

Thankfully those laws have been updated now. And, to be fair, India is so vast and has so much to see, that I didn't really feel deprived for choices of places to visit. But I do have an ever-growing bucket list of places I want to visit abroad, too.

Although there are some things, in my experience, that might be exclusive to travelers in India, most of what I learned is applicable to any single parent travelling with kids anywhere.

Here are seven travel tips that will help you create great memories with your child.

### **1. Get Your Consent Letter**

As a widow, I was my child's sole guardian, so I never needed a consent letter when taking my child anywhere. But if you're divorced and travelling with a minor, it's very likely that you may require a consent letter from your ex-spouse authorizing the travel.

Some countries also advise that you [travel with additional documents](#) proving that you are the child's parent. This is something your lawyer can help you with, depending on the laws of the country you hail from.

A lot depends on your personal situation and the circumstances surrounding your divorce. Getting these legal issues sorted out before

you plan your trip can save you a lot of heartache and inconvenience later.

## 2. Put Safety First

Travelling alone with a little kid in a country like India, my primary concern was that of safety. As a single woman, travelling in India isn't always safe. And with a child, it becomes even more important to make the best decisions concerning their safety.

The desire to stay in safe, family-friendly hotels made me opt for a timeshare with Club Mahindra and RCI. It's a decision I never regretted.

Their timeshares are as good as a 4 to 5 star hotel, in terms of stay, cleanliness, child-friendly activities and food. And safety is never a concern when we're staying in one of their properties.

## 3. Find Ways To Travel Cheaply

As a single mom, I'm always looking for ways to save money on travel (who isn't, right?). That's another reason I love my timeshare memberships.

With an RCI timeshare, you can stay opt to stay for a week anywhere in the world. In fact, our first trip abroad was to the Maldives where we got to **stay in an over- water villa for an entire week for less than \$500**, at the beautiful [Medhufushi Island Resort](#).

If you try booking the same room through [Booking.com](#), you'd end up paying **\$236 for one night**. That's the value you get with a timeshare.



*The over-water villas in the Maldives*

Of course, you could end up spending a lot on food if you decide to eat at the resort's restaurants, but the food is usually excellent and members are entitled to a discount.

Read my blog about our Maldives trip here: [Medhufushi Island Resort: Doing Maldives The RCI Way](#)

#### **4. Keep Kids Entertained**

As a single parent travelling with one or more kids, one of our primary concerns is keeping kids entertained.

When bored, kids can quickly turn what could otherwise be an enjoyable and relaxing vacation into a dreadful excursion you never want to experience again. In this too, I have found that having a timeshare is of great benefit.

My child has spent many hours in the welcoming embrace of the activity rooms in Club Mahindra or other RCI resorts, playing games with other kids, painting or learning crafts (at a charge, of course) with the activity kits they keep handy, enjoying karaoke evenings or housie (bingo) nights.

At Club Mahindra Munnar, they even had a mini-golf course that we enjoyed playing on thoroughly.

In many ways, the fact that she was occupied and entertained helped me preserve my sanity, especially when I just wanted to relax and read a book or watch a movie in the comfort of my 5-star hotel room.

If possible, before you make a booking, read up on the child-friendly activities or excursions at the hotel or destination of your choice, so that you know what options you can expect in terms of entertainment.

If none exist, you could always carry a few board games or fall back on the trusty old iPad to keep them entertained.

## **5. Keep Their Meds Handy**

When travelling with kids who have allergies or asthma, it's important to always carry your child's medications in your cabin luggage.

I remember a vacation in Goa, when my child broke out in hives after eating a bar of chocolate I purchased in the boarding area.



Desperate for some Benadryl, or any antihistamine that would help with the allergic reaction (the airport's first aid kit had none), it was the air hostess in the plane we boarded who managed to rustle up an Avil.

The result was that I had to almost carry a sleepy 6-year old down the airstairs, but it thankfully took care of the allergy (and my panic).

## **6. Go With The Flow**

During a trip to Kashmir, the hotel we had booked refused to honor our booking (for reasons I won't go into here).

It was the cab driver we hired to drive us to Srinagar from the airport, who came to our rescue and helped us get safe lodging in an unfamiliar city.

I decided to trust him to be our guide for our entire vacation, even inviting his youngest daughter, Maleha, who was the same age as my child, to accompany us for part of the trip.

You can read about our trip in the post here: [\*\*How My Kashmir Trip Went from Disastrous to Delightful\*\*](#)

We all ended up having a wonderful time and it became one of our most memorable vacations. Sometimes learning to go with the flow is the best thing you can do, especially when travelling with a child.





*The kids exploring the Lidder river in Pahalgam*

## **7. Make Responsible Travel Choices**

As parents, single or not, it's our job to teach our kids how to travel responsibly and sustainably.

For some it may involve choosing to visit **animal sanctuaries**, where rescued animals are lovingly cared for, instead of cruel animal attractions like elephant rides, zoos, or marine parks.

For others, it may be something as simple as choosing to carry your own [reusable own water bottles](#) instead of buying disposable water bottles when you travel.

Read about our visit to Wildlife SOS here: [Walking With Elephants: A Visit To Wildlife SOS In Mathura](#)



*Eli helping to bathe the elephants at Wildlife SOS*



*Accompanying Maya elephant on her evening walk*

Through my blog I'll be sharing more information about how to make responsible travel choices.

I hope you enjoyed these tips and find them useful when travelling with your own kids.

To ensure you receive my updates by email, please add [avast@ahoymatey.blog](mailto:avast@ahoymatey.blog) to your list of trusted senders [using the instructions here](#).