

## **Summer Fun Photos - How to Organize Your Memorabilia & Pictures** **By Allison Carter – The Professional Organizer**

With the travel season underway, families will be out sightseeing, having great adventures, and visiting relatives. And to remember the trip, parents are capturing the whole thing with photos and video. But what do you do with all the pictures and souvenirs you collect? It can be quite overwhelming.

Here are some tips for getting your photos and other memorabilia organized and maybe even into scrapbooks.

1. This is a trick I learned from a travel writer. Before you go, label a series of big envelopes or manila folders with the date and place you will be each day. (Several days can often go into one folder). Each night file away the things you have collected. If you want, you can even keep a log of the contents on the outside of the envelope.
2. When you first arrive anywhere, take a photo of a sign or another descriptive shot so you will know where you are in each photo. A "Welcome to" ... sign is always good. When you look back over your pictures, you will know exactly where you were.
3. If you're taking a lot of shots of people you don't know well, keep a running list of who they are and even the picture number from your camera. A mini spiral note-pad works well.
4. At the end of a day, or in the car, keep a journal or log of the day's events, special people you met or places you went. Date it and add it to the day's envelope.
5. Back at home, combine the pictures with the daily journal and the souvenir envelope. Even if you don't have time to put them into an album or scrapbook for months, you will have everything there you need to do it in a snap!
6. Invest in stick-on CD sleeves for your digital photos. Place one inside the cover of your photo album so the CD stays with the photos. Make a copy of each CD and store in a fireproof box.

### Big Picture Questions:

\* Do you collect so much stuff on trips it's too overwhelming to deal with?

Before adding things to your collection, ask yourself if you need each and every memento to remember the trip. A ticket stub may mean a lot or nothing at all.

\* Do you look at old photos of scenery very often?

If not, don't take so many scenery shots unless there is a person in the foreground. Save the scenery shots for postcards.

\* Do you have trouble tossing out the bad and so-so photos?

Consider getting a digital camera if you don't have one yet. It virtually eliminates having to decide what to do with bad pictures. They can be deleted immediately or kept on a CD.

### Fun tip:

1. Give kids 6 and older their own disposable camera to use for the trip. They come up with some really fun pictures. Teach them to only take a few shots a day or they won't have any pictures left to use. After photos are developed, give children a little photo album to keep their own pictures in.

