

- Do you plan for a trip? If so, how? Why do you use this method, why not others?

I'm currently planning for a trip to Vietnam. I am using Google docs, Messenger, Agoda (app), and I did use Sky Scanner. I used Google Docs for documenting all the important details for travelling such as receipts, itinerary, things to bring, important notes, etc. It's good for collaborative planning as both me and my travel partner can contribute in real-time. I use Messenger to communicate details with my travel partner. I use Agoda for hotel bookings and the design of the app is perfect for me because it has a very convenient filter system and it also lists out many vital info about each accommodation, i.e how far it is from the airport, check-in times, whether its in the city centre. Also, it's a lot more convenient that all the accommodation bookings are all on the one app, for easy referral.

- If not (planning), why?
- What are your main concerns/ priorities when travelling/ planning a trip?

One of my main concerns is missing an important detail or forgetting, such as acquiring a visa or Covid-19 regulation updates. Another concern is missing a booked plane flight or overnight bus/train due to being untimely from being lost, underestimating the time something requires.

From previous trips I have planned, a big concern was having unanimous agreement over something such as accommodation, where to eat, where to go. Sometimes unorganised travel partners may not even read the itinerary before going then complain about a travel detail and want to make last minute plans with others within the group to go elsewhere.

- What have you learned from previous travel experiences?

I have learned that it's ok to split up or even go somewhere on my own if no one else wants to go with me. I have also learned that it is super important to keep all travel information in the one place, for easy referral and for others within the travel group to find info. In the past, when the info wasn't in one place, certain travel group members would be completely oblivious to particular travel details or regulations.

- When preparing for a trip, do you currently use any trip planning apps/ software? If so, what and why. If not, why?

I use Google Docs, Messenger, Agoda. (reason mentioned above in q1)

- (IF YES) What are your current frustrations with the app you're using?

My current frustration is that I have to constantly send accommodation links to my travel partner, have them look at it (and the other way around) then put it in the google doc.

Have you ever travelled in a group?

- (IF YES) What was the group dynamics (family, friends, co-workers)? What was the travel type (short road trip, interstate, events e.g. festival)? How many people were involved?

Yes I have travelled with my family (to China) and with my friends (interstate). When I am travelling with my family, I have little to no input about the travel details and logistics, and I have no contributions to the funding or payment of the trip. I sort of just go along with my parents and whatever activities they've planned. It does get sort of frustrating when a lot of our time is occupied by something I have no interest in or if we don't do something that I would have wanted to do.

With friends, it's much more stressful as I feel that I have to ensure that all travel members are on top of everything and updated accordingly to change of plans. Sometimes it may be hard to come to a meeting of minds when we are planning the trip.

- Have you had a problem before while traveling in a group?

Yes, I have had problems with travel partners/group members who were unorganised and were oblivious to certain trip details due to not reading the itinerary or thoroughly reading the travel google document, rendering them unreliable. Some members may be less comfortable with navigating by themselves and therefore some plans may be disrupted as they cannot go somewhere by themselves as they are bad with directions.

- Were there any challenges planning in a group? – benefits

Yes, there are challenges planning in a group, particularly for accommodation or itinerary planning, particularly when there is a very limited number of days and only a few destinations can be visited and a few activities done. The challenges arise from different budgets, interests, energy levels, abilities.