

Chaashya's participant #1

Male, 26

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

a. If not (planning), why?

Yes. I research the location. I find the best things to do in the area and those that interest me, and I plan generally the time/ dates I want to do those things and then I make the day revolve around said activity, so I don't thoroughly plan.

I like to plan around activities but other than that, I don't like to do much planning.

2. What are your main concerns/ priorities when travelling/ planning a trip?

Normally, it's having time to do things and relax but also, having enough to do and not getting bored in one location.

3. What have you learned from previous travel experiences?

Budget correctly and almost always what you think you'll spend, you'll spend more. And to plan to do more activities but know which ones you prefer/ would cancel. I also don't book domestic travel routes ahead of time so I'm not locked in to things. I also try to rent a set of wheels: either a motorbike, bicycle or car so that I have more freedom getting around.

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

TripIt because my partner likes to be organised and preferred, we had a plan. I usually prefer to book things after I get to the location, however, I also think the pre-planning allowed us to do and see more while we were there. I also use skyscanner because it gets me the cheapest flights, and a mix specific to wherever I'm going, like local journey planners. For example, in Indonesia, I used one called Traveloka.

They're created by locals who actually know the country and not by companies/ people who only know information you can find online.

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

Skyscanner puts up the price if you view flights a couple of times. So you have to use another device to access it. I don't like TripIt's map feature. You know how google maps has a line showing your route? TripIt just showed a map with the points and a bunch of other unnecessary symbols. There was too much on there and it was clunky. They could have just added lines between the locations to show a route, especially since the order of the itinerary

has already been entered. Generally, it's just boring. The pro version is ridiculously expensive. It does alert you of price drops, though, allegedly.

6. Have you ever travelled in a group?

Yes.

7. (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?

All of the above. I've mostly done international trips. I prefer to go as a big group but I have travelled by myself many times as well. It's much more fun in a group. I only really travel by myself if I'm going to see someone there or no one else wants to go. I don't really enjoy solo travel. I think it's more for outgoing people.

8. Have you had a problem before while traveling in a group? Were there any challenges planning in a group? - benefits?

Normally, the problem is things are slow because people have different paces. I've gone with uni and there would be a real mix of people. For example, people who have never left the country would be terrified of leaving the hotel whereas others were more comfortable and enjoyed it more. They were some girls who never left the accommodation and complained about it the whole time. Some people have different tolerances for perceived risk and some people have less experience perceiving the risk. With the benefits, you share the load of planning. You generally come to a group agreement and usually there's always a "project manager" who is opinionated and will lead the decision-making process.