



JAY & HIMANI PRESENTS

HOW TO CREATE THE PERFECT ITINERARY

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WELCOME TO THE COURSE

Welcome to 'How to Create the Perfect Itinerary' by Jay & Himani. We're excited to have you on board! In this course, you'll master the art of creating flawless itineraries. This guide will save you time, money, and inspire you to take many more trips, all while ensuring you make the most of every adventure!

Who Are We?

Hey there, we're Jay and Himani! Together, we manage a social media account where we share our adventures in the Midwest and beyond. We offer insights into the best places to explore, stay, and eat. In our first year, we've welcomed over 16,000 followers to our Instagram family, all united by a love for adventure.

Why This Course?

Overwhelmed by planning trips? Feeling like you're missing out on the best spots? If you're wondering how we manage to take so many trips with ease, this course is for you. We'll teach you how to plan quickly and effectively, allowing you to travel just like us! Plus, we'll share all our secrets throughout the course. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or just starting out, there's something here for everyone. Join us and transform your travel experiences!

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

01

CHOOSING THE DESTINATION

We will teach you how to make selecting your next destination easy!

02

MASTERING THE LOGISTICS

Learn how to snag the best deals and book every part of your trip with ease.

03

BUILDING THE ITINERARY

Create an itinerary that matches the style of travel you prefer, ensuring a personalized and fulfilling experience.

04

TIPS & TRICKS WHEN TRAVELING

Gain some packing tips, dealing with unexpected changes, and other strategies to handle common travel issues.

05

MAKING TRAVEL A LIFESTYLE

Discover how to make travel a regular part of your life, fitting it into your budget and schedule smoothly.

CHAPTER



NUMBER 1

CHOOSING THE DESTINATION

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Welcome to the most exciting part of planning your trip: Picking Your Destination! While it might seem daunting, we've got a foolproof method to jumpstart your next big adventure. This chapter is all about creating a fun list of exciting places and helping you choose the best one for you.

Make a List

Start your travel planning with a brainstorming session—this isn't just any list, it's your dream list for the year! Here's how to create it:

1. Create Your List of Places: Write down all the spots you're interested in visiting. Need some inspiration? Here are some places to start:

- **Travel Influencers:** Follow us and other travel accounts on platforms like Instagram for inspiration.
- **Pinterest:** Explore travel boards for visual ideas and destination guides.
- **YouTube:** Watch videos that offer a glimpse into potential destinations.
- **Travel Blogs:** Dive into detailed articles and travel tips from experienced bloggers.
- **Travel Podcasts:** Listen to episodes where hosts discuss their adventures and share useful travel advice.

- **Travel Shows:** Discover new places through shows on tv!

2. **Detail Your Plans:** For each destination that you have written down, expand them by noting the following details:

- **Duration:** Estimate how many days you think you'll need to explore each place. For relaxing vacations, choose a duration that fits with your days off.
- **Best Times to Visit:** When is the optimal time to go?
 - Ensure the weather will be suitable for your planned activities.
 - Visiting during off-peak seasons can save you money and help you avoid the crowds.
 - Participating in local festivals can be a unique experience, but be aware that some holidays might lead to closed shops and services.
- **The Type of Trip:** What kind of trip are you looking for?
 - Adventure (hiking and activities)
 - Relaxing (beaches, etc.)
 - Exploring cities
 - Mixed
- **Cost:** Perform a quick search on Google Flights and platforms like Expedia for stays to gauge flight and accommodation costs.

Choose from Your List

When it's time to pick your next destination from the list, it should be straightforward. Here's how to do it:

- 1. Assess Your Available Days:** First, determine how many vacation days you have. If you prefer frequent travel, consider reserving some days for multiple shorter trips throughout the year, rather than using all your days on one or two long vacations.
- 2. Match the Destination with the Season:** Review your list of places and check which destinations are best during the period you want to travel. Some places might be ideal in specific seasons due to weather or local events.
- 3. Make Your Choice:** If several destinations meet your criteria, pick the one that appeals most to you or the one that offers the most value for money at the time.

CONCLUSION

Choosing your destination is more than just picking a place on the map; it's about finding a spot that fits both your dreams and your reality. By following these steps, you're not just planning a trip; you're shaping an experience that fits your lifestyle and interests. So, gear up to explore the world in a way that's perfect for you.

CHAPTER



NUMBER 2

MASTERING THE LOGISTICS

PLANNING LOGISTICS

Welcome to Chapter 2! Here, you'll master essential skills to manage travel logistics smoothly. Learn to navigate top booking platforms, secure great deals, and streamline your trip preparations, allowing you to enjoy every step of your journey.

Overview of Top Travel Apps and Booking Platforms

Here are some highly recommended tools we use to manage our travel logistics:

- **Accommodations:** To book your stay, consider using platforms like Expedia, Hotels.com, Airbnb, and Vrbo. They offer a wide range of options.
- **Flights:** We often use Google Flights to keep an eye on flight prices and snag the best deals. Skyscanner and Hopper are also excellent choices for this purpose.
- **Car Rentals:** We usually book our car rentals through National. However, you can also find good deals on car rentals through Expedia or Kayak.
- **Ride-Sharing:** Uber and Lyft are widely available and can be very convenient for getting around. We recommend downloading these apps, as they've been incredibly helpful during our trips in Europe.
- **Tours and Excursions:** When it comes to booking tours or additional activities, we always use Viator.

Guide on Booking Travel

Booking travel doesn't have to be complicated. Here's how to tackle it:

- 1. Flights:** Start by checking flight prices early to monitor trends. Use incognito mode in your browser to avoid price hikes from your browsing history. Make sure to compare prices across different websites and airlines to find the best deals.
- 2. Accommodations:** Consider what you need from your stay. Do you prioritize a great location, hotel amenities, or the cozy feel of an Airbnb? Browse various sites, read the latest reviews, and compare prices to determine the best option.
- 3. Transportation:** Decide whether you'll rent a car, use public transportation, or depend on taxis and rideshares. It's often cheaper to book car rentals or train tickets ahead of time, particularly during peak travel seasons.

Remember to confirm all bookings and keep a record.

Tips for Finding the Best Deals and Discounts

Everyone loves a good deal, and with a few tips, you can stretch your travel budget further:

- **Travel in the Off-Season:** Consider traveling when it's not peak season. This can lead to lower prices for flights and accommodations, and you'll also enjoy less crowds.

- **Price Alerts:** Set up price alerts using apps like Hopper. These tools track flight and hotel prices for you, predict trends, and notify you when it's the best time to book.
- **Loyalty Programs:** Sign up for airline and hotel loyalty programs. The more you travel, the more points you earn, which can be redeemed for upgrades and free nights.
- **Travel Credit Cards:** If you travel often, getting a travel credit card can offer numerous benefits. Here's what you can expect:
 - Earn points and miles which you can later use for travel expenses. The more you travel, the more you can earn.
 - Travel insurance is one of the major advantages of these cards. If your luggage is lost or your flight is significantly delayed, you could receive considerable compensation.
 - Enjoy access to airport lounges, free checked bags, and more. The annual fee of the card can often be offset by these benefits, especially if you frequently check bags.
 - Avoid foreign transaction fees when you travel abroad. This can lead to significant savings.
- **Last-Minute Deals:** Booking at the last minute can also be a way to save, particularly with hotels that are eager to fill empty rooms. Keep an eye out for these deals if your travel dates are flexible.

Managing Bookings and Travel Documents

Keeping your travel details organized will save you stress and confusion during your trip:

- Document Storage: Store documents in Icloud or Google Drive or photos app to keep digital copies of your passport, visa, travel insurance, and booking confirmations accessible from anywhere.
- Reminders: Set reminders for check-in times, and deadlines for visa or other requirements.

CONCLUSION

As we wrap up this chapter, we hope you now have the tools, apps, and skills to streamline your travel planning. Our goal is to help you book travel quickly and cost-effectively while reducing travel-related stress. With these skills, you'll be better prepared to manage trip logistics, allowing you to focus more on enjoying your travels.

CHAPTER



NUMBER 3

BUILDING THE ITINERARY

MAKING THE ITINERARY

Welcome to Chapter 3! Here, we'll guide you in crafting an itinerary that matches your personal style and preferences. Think of it as creating a custom travel masterpiece. We'll help you set clear goals and choose activities that fit your interests, making sure your travel plans are both fulfilling and fun.

Identifying the Goal of Your Trip

Before you start filling out your itinerary, it's crucial to know what you want from your trip. If you've made a list as guided in Chapter 1, you already have a clear idea of the kind of trip you're planning. This clarity will help you make informed choices about where to go, where to stay, and how fast-paced or relaxed your trip should be.

Do the Research

This step involves researching for your trip, which can seem overwhelming. But don't worry—we'll show you how to do it quickly and effectively. Let's simplify how you decide what to include in your schedule. Here's our approach.

- 1. Pinterest:** Start by searching on Pinterest for phrases like "what to do in Paris" or "best things to see in Paris." You'll find pins that link to various blogs. We really enjoy this method because as you read through these lists, you'll quickly spot the top attractions and even discover some hidden gems!

2. Use Social Media: Once we have some baseline things to do we like to use Instagram and YouTube to verify or find some hidden gems. It gives good visual inspirations and practical travel tips. You can find content from both locals and fellow travelers.

3. Google Maps: Lastly we use google maps to just scan the area. Any popular things typically are on google maps with pictures and reviews.

Template We Use for Each Trip

The last step is to create a document where you can save and access all your trip details. We like to use Apple Notes, but you can use Google Sheets, Excel, or any other tool you prefer. We rely heavily on this note during our trips, as it helps everything run smoothly without much thought. We include everything from flight times, hotel details, Google Maps links, activities, to extra and backup plans. So, without further ado, here's a rough template we used for our trip to the Big Island in Hawaii.

Hawaii The Big Island (April 4 - April 8)
Thursday Night - Tuesday Morning

Flight: United
UA 1057 8:49am-10:35am -> ORD - DEN
UA 1758 12:20pm-3:34pm -> DEN - KOA

UA 1759 7:35pm-6:03am -> KOA - DEN
UA 1811 7:50am- 11:20am -> DEN - ORD

Day 1 (Thursday) (Kailua Kona - Chill Evening):

Stay: Outrigger Kona Resort

Itinerary

- Land at 3:30pm, pickup car, check in to the hotel
 - Sunset with snacks and drinks at outrigger resort
-

Day 2 (Friday) (Volcano National Park - Hiking Day):

Stay: Volcano Airbnb

Itinerary

-Hawaii Volcano National Park Road Sign #1

- Thurston lava tube
- Kilauea crater overlook
- Kilauea iki trail
- Kilauea iki crater

Lunch: Uncle Georges Lounge in Volcano House

- Sulpher banks trail
- Steam vents
- Kilauea Overlook
- Uekahuna Overlook

Chain of Craters Road

- Luamanu Crater
- Pauahi Crater

- Mauna Ulu Lookout (Lava Flow Views)
- Holei sea arch

- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Sign #2

Dinner: Pizza Hut

Day 3 (Saturday) (Hilo - Waterfalls & Chill):

Stay: Volcano Airbnb

Itinerary

- Kaumana Caves
- Wai'ale Falls
- Boiling Pots/Peepree Falls
- Rainbow Falls

Breakfast: The Booch Bar

Makani's Magic Pineapple Shack Juice

- Hawaii tropical botanical garden
- Akaka Falls
- Umauma Falls
- Mauna Kea Sunset

- Dinner: Kamana Kitchen

Day 4 (Sunday) (Kailua Kona - Chill Day):

Stay: Kailua-Kona Airbnb

Itinerary

-Punalu'u Black Sand Beach

-South Most Point

Early Dinner: Island Lava Java

-Night Manta Experience Snorkel

Day 5 (Monday) (Kona + Waimea):

Itinerary

-Brunch: Papa Kona Restaurant & Bar

-Coffee: Kona Coffee & Tea

-Greenwell farms coffee tour

-Mrs. Barry's Kona Cookies and Coffee

-Hapuna Beach

-Califas Mexican Food

-Car rental return 5:00ish. Flight is at 7:30pm.

Extras:

-Pololu Valley Lookout

-Waipio Valley Lookout

When we create an itinerary, we start by listing our flight details if we're flying. Then, we break down each day we'll be there:

1. **Day Heading:** Each day gets its own heading.
2. **Stay:** We note where we're staying that day.
3. **Itinerary:** We divide this section into meals—breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Since we're not big on elaborate meals, we often opt for snacks, but you can plan for full meals. Between meals, add the places you want to visit based on your research. Focus on what you really want to see and do, and be realistic about how long things will take. Always allow extra time.
4. **Extras:** At the end of the day, if there's still time, we list a few extra activities that we can choose from if we're up for more.

We repeat this process for each day. And that's it! This method keeps our planning clear and organized.

CONCLUSION

As we conclude this chapter, you now have the tools to create an itinerary that aligns with your travel goals and personal preferences. By setting clear goals, customizing your plans to fit your interests, and clearly outlining your itinerary, you've prepared for a trip that will be both exciting and personally rewarding. This approach will help ensure your trip runs smoothly—trust us on this!

CHAPTER



NUMBER 4

TIPS & TRICKS WHEN TRAVELING

SOME EXTRAS

Welcome to Chapter 4, where we tackle the unpredictabilities of travel. In this chapter, we provide practical tips for dealing with common issues such as flight delays, road trip advice, and smart packing strategies. These tips will help you stay prepared and enhance your overall travel experience.

Dealing with Common Travel Issues While Flying

Travel disruptions like flight delays and cancellations are annoying, but being ready can help you stay calm and keep your plans on track. Here's how to handle these situations smoothly:

- 1. Stay Informed:** Always check your flight's status on the airline's website or app. Sign up for alerts to get updates in real-time. It's good to know about any changes before you head to the airport.
- 2. Communicate with Your Airline:** If your flight is disrupted, contact your airline or travel provider right away. Ask about options like booking another flight or getting a refund. Sometimes, acting fast can save you a lot of trouble.
- 3. Ask for Compensation:** You might be entitled to compensation if your flight is significantly delayed or canceled. If not, you might still get coverage from travel insurance.

4. Use Travel Insurance: If you have it, check what your travel insurance covers for delays and disruptions. Contact your insurer to talk about your situation and possibly file a claim. For instance, after a 24-hour delay, we once got rescheduled for another flight and received \$1000 for hotels and meals, which turned out to be quite nice!

5. Adjust Your Plans: Always have a backup plan. This might mean booking a hotel near the airport or finding different transport. Websites like Expedia are great for making last-minute bookings.

6. Get Help at the Airport: Use the customer service desks for immediate help. Airline staff can offer direct assistance and sometimes provide perks or vouchers if you have to wait.

Understanding and preparing for these steps can help you manage travel disruptions effectively, ensuring they have minimal impact on your trip.

Dealing with Common Travel Issues While Driving

1. Driving in the Evening: Here is why we avoid night driving:

- **Wildlife Activity:** Animals like deer are more active, increasing the risk of accidents.
- **Visibility and Fatigue:** It's harder to see and you're more likely to be tired during these hours.
- **Less Traffic:** Fewer cars might seem good, but it's harder to find help if you need it or if your car breaks down.

2. Check Your Vehicle: Make sure your car is in good condition, especially for long drives. Always have a spare tire and a jack. If your car isn't reliable, consider renting one.

3. Pack for the Weather: Always keep blankets in your car if you're traveling in colder climates, to be prepared for sudden temperature drops.

4. Monitor Your Fuel: In remote areas, gas stations are rare. Always fill up when you can to avoid running low on gas, which can be both stressful and unsafe.

5. Bring Snacks and Entertainment: Keeping everyone entertained and fed makes the journey more enjoyable. Pack your favorite snacks and games or playlists to make the trip more fun.

Safety Tips for Different Destinations

Safety is paramount when traveling, and proper preparation ensures a stress-free journey. Here are key safety tips for different types of destinations, whether you're in a busy city, remote area, or exotic locale:

1. Research Safety Concerns: Before your trip, check for safety issues related to your destination. Use reliable sources like government travel websites for any travel advisories regarding crime, political situations, or health risks.

2. Learn Local Customs and Laws: Understand the local customs and laws where you're visiting. This knowledge can help you avoid accidental offenses or legal problems. What's acceptable in your country might be illegal or frowned upon elsewhere.

3. Carry Safety Tools: Depending on where you're going, consider taking safety items like personal alarms, luggage locks, or apps for emergency services abroad. Keep your phone charged and have local emergency numbers ready.

4. Stay Healthy: Protect your health by consulting with a travel medicine clinic or your doctor for necessary vaccinations before your trip. To avoid common travel illnesses, eat well-cooked food and drink bottled or purified water.

5. Get Travel Insurance: Make sure you have comprehensive travel insurance that covers medical issues, evacuations, and any specific activities you plan, like adventure sports.

By following these tips and preparing effectively, you can minimize potential risks and focus on enjoying your travels with peace of mind.

Packing Essentials for Every Kind of Trip

Packing efficiently is an art that ensures you have everything you need without excess baggage. This section offers tips and tricks for packing smartly. Here's how to master the art of packing:

- 1. Understand Your Destination:** Research the climate to pack the right clothes for comfort in any weather.
- 2. Create a Packing List:** Use a checklist to avoid overpacking and forgetting important items. Include versatile clothing that can be worn in different ways.
- 3. Pack Light and Right:** Use space-saving tools like packing cubes to organize your suitcase. Try to fit everything into a carry-on to ease transit and avoid luggage fees.
- 4. Remember Essentials:** Remember to include medications, travel documents, chargers, adapters, and any special gear. We use a travel bin for easy access to commonly used items.

By following these tips, you can pack smartly and lightly, making your travel and packing process simpler and quicker. For us, packing has become a swift and effortless routine, and it can be the same for you!

CONCLUSION

As we wrap up this chapter, you should now have a better understanding of what to do when a trip does not go your way or something comes up. Flexibility is key in travel. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, changes to our plans are inevitable—be it due to weather, health, personal preferences, or external events.

CHAPTER



NUMBER 5

MAKING TRAVEL A LIFESTYLE

TRAVEL IS LIFE

In Chapter 5, we explore integrating travel into your lifestyle for those who desire to travel more frequently. This chapter will help you manage finances and balance your travel ambitions with your personal and professional life, making travel a sustainable and enriching part of your life.

Budgeting for Frequent Travel

Effective budgeting is crucial for frequent travelers. In this section, we'll guide you through managing your finances so you can travel more without compromising your financial health. Here's how to budget smartly for travel:

- 1. Setting Up a Travel Budget:** Determine your annual travel budget and break it down into smaller budgets for each trip. Consider the destination, length of stay, and travel style.
- 2. Saving on Travel Costs:** Reduce expenses by traveling during off-season, opting for budget accommodations, or using loyalty points and miles for flights and hotels.
- 3. Financial Planning for Travel:** Consistently save for travel by setting up automatic transfers to a dedicated savings account whenever you get paid.
- 4. Using Budgeting Tools:** Utilize apps and tools to track your expenses and monitor your savings goals. This can help prevent overspending and allow you to adjust your budget as needed.

5. Making Smart Choices: Focus your spending on experiences rather than material goods. Choose local eateries and free activities to immerse yourself in the local culture without overspending.

6. Travel Credit Cards: When used wisely, travel credit cards can offer significant benefits like travel rewards, free insurance, and no foreign transaction fees, helping further reduce your travel costs.

By adopting these financial tactics, you can make your travel budget go further and enjoy more trips, ensuring each one enriches your life without putting a strain on your finances.

Balancing Travel with Work/Life Commitments

Traveling often requires balancing your professional and personal life effectively. This section provides strategies to help you travel more without compromising your work and relationships. Here's how you can manage this balance:

1. Negotiating Flexible Work Arrangements: Discuss flexible working options with your employer. Explain how remote work can sustain or even boost productivity. Suggest a trial period to show how effective this setup can be.

2. Maximizing Travel Opportunities: Utilize public holidays and long weekends to lengthen your travel time without using much of your annual leave. This planning allows for extended trips without exhausting your vacation days.

3. Integrating Travel with Lifestyle: Make travel a regular part of your lifestyle by planning shorter, more frequent trips that require less time away from your duties. Opt for destinations close to home to enjoy new experiences without the commitment of long-distance travel.

4. Remote Working and Time Management: If working while traveling, ensure you have the necessary tools and technology. Maintain a clear schedule to balance work tasks and leisure activities. Discipline in managing work hours will maximize your enjoyment of travel.

By following these strategies, you can travel more often without neglecting your professional responsibilities or personal connections. These approaches not only improve your travel experiences but also help maintain a balanced lifestyle.

CONCLUSION

By the end of this chapter, you'll have the tools to make travel a sustainable part of your lifestyle. Whether through smart budgeting, maximizing rewards, or balancing travel with work and personal life, you're ready to integrate travel more fully into your life. Use these strategies to transform your passion for travel into a joyful, enriching, and balanced lifestyle.



Congratulations on completing the 'How to Create the Perfect Itinerary' course by Jay & Himani! We're thrilled that you've joined us on this journey to master the art of travel planning.

In this course, you've learned that creating the perfect itinerary can be a lot easier than you think, with an abundance of benefits. With these essential strategies in hand, you're now prepared to plan adventures that are not only more efficient and enjoyable but also truly memorable.

Thank you for joining us in this educational adventure. We look forward to hearing about the amazing journeys you'll plan using these new skills.

Best wishes,
Jay & Himani