

# Travel

**Travel** is the movement of people between distant geographical [locations](#). Travel can be done by [foot](#), [bicycle](#), [automobile](#), [train](#), [boat](#), [bus](#), [airplane](#), [ship](#) or other means, with or without [luggage](#), and can be one way or round trip.<sup>[1]</sup> Travel can also include relatively short stays between successive movements, as in the case of [tourism](#).



## Etymology

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The origin of the word "travel" is most likely lost to history. The term "travel" may originate from the [Old French](#) word *travail*, which means 'work'.<sup>[2]</sup> According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the first known use of the word *travel* was in the 14th century. It also states that the word comes from Middle English *travailen*, *travelen* (which means to torment, labor, strive, journey) and earlier from Old French *travailler* (which means to work strenuously, toil).

In English, people still occasionally use the words *travail*, which means struggle. According to Simon Winchester in his book *The Best Travelers' Tales* (2004), the words *travel* and *travail* both share an even more ancient root: a Roman instrument of torture called the *tripalium* (in Latin it means "three stakes", as in to impale).<sup>[citation needed]</sup> This link may reflect the extreme difficulty of travel in ancient times. Travel in modern times may or may not be much easier, depending upon the destination. Travel to [Mount Everest](#), the [Amazon rainforest](#), [extreme tourism](#), and [adventure travel](#) are more difficult forms of travel. Travel can also be more difficult depending on the method of travel, such as by [bus](#), [cruise ship](#), or even by [bullock cart](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Purpose and motivation

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Traveler's motorcycle with large rear box

Reasons for traveling include [recreation](#),<sup>[4]</sup> holidays, rejuvenation,<sup>[5]</sup> [tourism](#)<sup>[4]</sup> or [vacationing](#),<sup>[4]</sup> [research](#) travel,<sup>[4]</sup> the gathering of information, visiting people, [volunteer travel](#) for [charity](#), [migration](#) to begin life somewhere else, religious [pilgrimages](#)<sup>[4]</sup> and [mission trips](#), [business travel](#),<sup>[4]</sup> [trade](#),<sup>[4]</sup> [commuting](#), obtaining health care,<sup>[4]</sup> [waging](#) or [fleeing war](#), for the enjoyment of traveling, or other reasons. Travelers may use [human-powered transport](#) such as [walking](#) or [bicycling](#); or [vehicles](#), such as [public transport](#), [automobiles](#), [trains](#), [ferries](#), [boats](#), [cruise ships](#) and [airplanes](#).

Motives for travel include:

- [Pleasure](#)<sup>[6]</sup>
- [Relaxation](#)
- [Discovery](#) and [exploration](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- [Adventure](#)
- [Intercultural communications](#)<sup>[4]</sup>
- Taking personal time for building [interpersonal relationships](#).
- [Avoiding stress](#)<sup>[7]</sup>
- [Forming memories](#)<sup>[7]</sup>

## History

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Travel dates back to [antiquity](#) where wealthy Greeks and Romans would travel for leisure to their [summer homes](#) and [villas](#) in cities such as [Pompeii](#) and [Baiae](#).<sup>[8]</sup> While early travel tended to be slower, more dangerous, and more dominated by trade and migration, cultural and technological advances over many years have tended to mean that travel has become easier and more accessible.<sup>[9]</sup> Humankind has come a long way in transportation since [Christopher Columbus](#) sailed to the New World from Spain in 1492, an expedition which took over 10 weeks to arrive at the final destination; to the 21st century when [aircraft](#) allows travel from Spain to the United States overnight.

Travel in the [Middle Ages](#) offered hardships and challenges, though it was important to the economy and to society. The [wholesale sector](#) depended (for example) on [merchants](#) dealing with/through [caravans](#) or sea-voyagers, end-user [retailing](#) often demanded the services of many itinerant

[peddlers](#) wandering from village to hamlet, [gyrovagues](#) (wandering monks) and wandering [friars](#) brought [theology](#) and [pastoral support](#) to neglected areas, [traveling minstrels](#) toured, and armies ranged far and wide in various crusades and in sundry other wars.<sup>[8]</sup> Pilgrimages were common in both the European and Islamic world and involved streams of travelers both locally and internationally.<sup>[10]</sup>

In the late 16th century, it became fashionable for young European [aristocrats](#) and wealthy upper-class men to travel to significant European cities as part of their education in the arts and literature. This was known as the [Grand Tour](#), and included cities such as London, Paris, Venice, Florence, and Rome. However, the [French Revolution](#) brought with it the end of the Grand Tour.<sup>[8]</sup>

Travel by water often provided more comfort and speed than land-travel, at least until the advent of a network of [railways](#) in the 19th century. Travel for the purpose of tourism is reported to have started around this time when people began to travel for fun as travel was no longer a hard and challenging task. This was capitalized on by people like [Thomas Cook](#) selling tourism packages where trains and hotels were booked together.<sup>[11]</sup> [Airships](#) and [airplanes](#) took over much of the role of long-distance surface travel in the 20th century, notably after the Second World War where there was a surplus of both aircraft and pilots.<sup>[8]</sup> Air travel has become so ubiquitous in the 21st century that one woman, [Alexis Alford](#), visited all 196 countries before the age of 21.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Geographic types

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Travel may be local, regional, national (domestic) or international. In some countries, non-local internal travel may require an [internal passport](#), while international travel typically requires a [passport](#) and [visa](#). Tours are a common type of travel. Examples of travel tours are expedition cruises,<sup>[13]</sup> small group tours,<sup>[14]</sup> and river cruises.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Safety

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See also: [Air safety](#) and [Automobile safety](#)



Travelers in a [British Airways 747 airplane](#). [Air travel](#) is a common means of transport.



MS Skania ferry in the port of Szczecin

Authorities emphasize the importance of taking precautions to ensure travel [safety](#).<sup>[16]</sup> When traveling abroad, the odds favor a safe and incident-free trip, however, travelers can be subject to difficulties, crime and violence.<sup>[17]</sup> Some safety considerations include being aware of one's surroundings,<sup>[16]</sup> avoiding being the target of a crime,<sup>[16]</sup> leaving copies of one's [passport](#) and [itinerary](#) information with trusted people,<sup>[16]</sup> obtaining [medical insurance](#) valid in the country being visited<sup>[16]</sup> and registering with one's national [embassy](#) when arriving in a foreign country.<sup>[16]</sup> Many countries do not recognize drivers' licenses from other countries; however most countries accept [international driving permits](#).<sup>[18]</sup> [Automobile insurance](#) policies issued in one's own country are often invalid in foreign countries, and it is often a requirement to obtain temporary auto insurance valid in the country being visited.<sup>[18]</sup> It is also advisable to become oriented with the driving rules and regulations of destination countries.<sup>[18]</sup> Wearing a [seat belt](#) is highly advisable for safety reasons; many countries have penalties for violating [seatbelt laws](#).<sup>[18]</sup>

There are three main statistics which may be used to compare the safety of various forms of travel (based on a [Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions](#) survey in October 2000):<sup>[19]</sup>