



TRAVEL

**A BUDGET TRAVEL GUIDE FOR
STUDENTS TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD
ON LESS THAN \$30 A DAY**

ABHISHEK KUMAR

TRAVEL:

**THE ULTIMATE BUDGET TRAVEL GUIDE FOR
STUDENTS TO MAKE EVERY DESTINATION A WILD
LIFETIME ADVENTURE FOR UNDER \$30 A DAY**

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The information in this book is intended to provide useful information on the topics mentioned. Great care has been taken to ensure that the details in this book are accurate and up to date. However, the author does not assume responsibility for any incorrect information that may be in this book. This includes information that is out of date.

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Introduction

“Once I start making the big bucks, I’m going to travel the world and live it big!” This is what my friend Jose told me as we were finishing up our calculus homework one evening in an Atlanta dorm. We were in our first year in college and very excited about the opportunities that existed within the campus for education and fun. There was a slew of social student organizations, fraternities, sports clubs, housing authorities and academic clubs to keep one busy during the four to six years of undergraduate life. However, I noticed that not many students took full advantage of global opportunities afforded to them during college; the reasons for this involved fear of estimated travel costs and time.

For generations, the concept of travel has been linked with the idea of the overworked getting away for a while. After working hard day after day, the poor soul finally takes a trip to Hawaii for a weekend of blue water beaches and beautiful sunsets. Or we think of the happy retired couple taking a month-long adventure to India. The hotel industry, airline industry and other aspects of the hospitality industry have been built around the need for people to relax after work or after retirement. Enjoying the sights and sounds is more important than saving money. Instant gratification assumes greater significance than the need for a long-term plan of travel. A \$1000 weekend getaway to San Francisco or a \$10,000 month-long trip to China is all worth it. After all, this is what money is saved for, right?

Modern day travel has another dimension, especially for students. These are students looking to get more global exposure by working or studying abroad. These are also people who have a gap year after college or between jobs. Month-long and yearlong vacations are becoming more common. From my personal experience, it is very important to travel around the world early in your life. It gives you a global perspective on life and a global perspective on your field of work, and it offers you a wider array of experiences and a better idea of what you want to do after graduation. Having lived in four continents and traveled to 27 different countries, I realized that not only is travel important but it is very possible for every single person to afford. Traveling as a student is especially important as it opens your mind to

different global perspectives at an early stage in your career when you have more choices. It also leads to greater inter-cultural understanding, which is a trait many employers value in the modern workplace. Keeping costs of travel low is extremely important for students and for those who are on long-term travel, away from their jobs.

Congratulations for downloading this booklet! I have made every effort to summarize as much information in as little space as possible. I believe in the importance of concise information; I don't want to bore you and cause you to drop this guide before you have reached the end. The information I have for you is most beneficial for novice travelers, but I expect everyone to get significant value from this booklet. You can use it as a reference long after you read it.

This booklet is full of tips and tricks on how to save money while traveling. I used these same tips as I traveled throughout Europe, South America, Asia and North America. This information is not only for students—anyone interested in long-term budget travel will benefit from reading this booklet. Being from a culture that values thrift, I have taken great pride in ensuring that I can always find the best value for money. I hope to encourage more travel and more inter-cultural understanding, making this world a much smaller place to live in.

If you liked the book, please leave a review in the comments section or using the link [here](#). It helps spread the message, and encourages other people to become global travelers.



The Benefits of Travel

It's hard to describe the benefits of long-term travel if you have never embarked on such an adventure. Travel definitely changes you as a person, but it's not a noticeable change, like the change you experience after going through a workout program for three months. The change in you is seen in how you deal with situations around you. Let's look at a few situations and examine how two different people responded to them. Student A has just graduated. During his college experience, he completed one study-abroad program, one work-abroad program and he also traveled to another country for vacation. Then look at Student B: He has also just graduated, but he has never left his home country.

1. **Situation:** Both students get a job in a company. A couple of new coworkers join the company who are of a different ethnicity. They are not fluent in English and struggle to communicate.

Student A thinks: They're probably from another country where English is not spoken, and are trying to learn the language. From personal experience of living in a foreign culture, I know that it is a difficult transition and can take up to 6 months to be fluent in the local language.

Student B thinks: Why can't they learn how to speak English properly before they get here? I hope I don't have to work with these guys. It seems like too much of a pain to communicate with them.

Result: Student A will obviously get along with the co-workers and be more productive with them. He has an additional resource for help in these coworkers when he needs them. He can learn about things from their perspective, which makes him a more rounded person. Student B will struggle to get along with the co-workers and could have altercations with them in the long run.

2. **Situation:** Both students relocated to a different part of the country for a new assignment, where the landscape, weather and culture are different.

Student A thinks: There will be a period of adjustment when I move there, after which I will get used to it. I will like some things there and hate some things there. I think the move is overall beneficial, and it is a good one.

Student B thinks: I cannot move to another part of the country. The weather, people and landscape are entirely different, and I will not be able to do well.

Result: Student A will be able to adjust faster to the conditions as a result of his outlook on the situation. He will be able to take advantage of the positive aspects of the new culture and landscape faster.

3. **Situation:** The Company has been bought out by a foreign competitor. The systems, processes and rules that have been in place for years are going to change.

Student A thinks: I'm excited for the change. There will be more global opportunities in the company and more chances to travel. It's good to be exposed to another company's processes. The resultant business process will combine the best that both companies have to offer.

Student B thinks: This is a disaster. The change could mean trouble for all. The reorganization could cause chaos that we may never recover from.

Result: Student A will adapt faster to the new processes and systems and be able to succeed faster. Student B is more resistant to change and will struggle to work with new company bosses.

4. **Situation:** Both students encounter a difference of opinion with a boss/coworker from a different culture.

Student A thinks: The world is a place with a diversity of opinions. People's opinions are determined by their background, environment and education, and it's amazing how people with different opinions may both be correct but fail to realize this because they cannot see the world from the other person's point of view.

Student B thinks: Why can't everyone think like I do? I'm frustrated with constantly arguing with people because I don't agree

with them.

Result: Student A understands the point of view of the other person because he understands the culture. He is also able to better understand if the conflict is due to a difference in culture or something else. This helps him to better communicate and negotiate with his co-worker/boss. Student B is frustrated and wonders why the world is against him.

This explains why employers value global experience in today's world. Economies of scale are changing. Developed countries are shifting from a manufacturing to a technology and service base. In general, developing countries are shifting from an agricultural to a manufacturing base. Developing countries are also having a dramatic increase in consumer spending. Ability to adapt to different cultures and situations will be very important over the next ten years. Student A is better prepared for the global economy.

These situations indicate that there is a definite change in the subconscious when one experiences something new. You don't come back the same person. A picture, painting or photo of a place is not the same as being there yourself. The smells, sounds, sights and sensations are what remain with you after you get back. You cannot get these by looking at a Facebook picture of a friend who's showing off her trip to China.

It can be scary to plan such a trip. Especially if the trip includes living in a country where nobody speaks your language. Learning a new language is faster in a country where the new language is the only one spoken. You use it in your day to day life and start thinking and dreaming in that language. It is a tough experience, but a gratifying one.

Travel helps you understand yourself better and gives you greater appreciation for who you are. It also educates you about the world around you and helps you create an international network. By encountering situations that you don't normally encounter in your day to day life, it increases your resourcefulness and tenacity. It makes you look at your daily life in a different perspective and gives you tools to tackle your daily life better. Long term travel, especially, encourages you to prioritize your needs more effectively. You'd be surprised what things you think you need that you won't miss while traveling!

Money and Travel

A majority of people travel for the following four reasons:

1. To take a break from work: These are travelers that work very hard and need to take a break and get away from the daily routine. They probably take 2-3 of these vacations a year to rejuvenate themselves.
2. To go on a retirement vacation: These are travelers that have spent most of their life working very hard and saving for retirement. They can now travel to the places they want to travel and experience the world.
3. To learn about a place: People travel to a location to learn more about that particular location or to learn the local language.
4. To work: Work travelers travel to other lands for face-to-face contact with their clients.

Reasons 1 and 2 represent the majority of people, while reasons 3 and 4 are less common. Reason number 4 is definitely not a vacation. It can be grueling to travel for work, especially if it's part of your regular schedule. It is very economical though, as all the funds are taken care of by the company.

Let's just consider the first two reasons, as these are the ones that are in our control. Both sets of travelers have the mentality of spending money on a vacation. The vacation is a grand expense as it is well deserved. We see the vacation as a sort of alternate reality in which we have an infinite amount of money. If we lived that way in our daily lives, our finances would not last for long.

For people travelling to learn (Reason 3), saving money is of obvious importance. Most students fall into this category. These travelers are generally long-term travelers who are eager to embrace themselves in the local customs, traditions and language. And the locals in a majority of the world live a frugal day-to-day existence. So people travelling here learn from the locals on how and where to save money, and it is a natural process for them over time.

Recall the best moment of every vacation that you have had. Did you actually have to spend a great deal of money to experience those moments? A

lot of the best moments include relaxing at the beach or enjoying the experience of walking along the mountains. These moments are priceless and do not have to involve spending tons of money.



Sunset in Keywest, Florida: A priceless vacation experience



Travel for Free

Before discussing the available free options, let's look at the multitude of other options available to students who wish to travel while studying. In a lot of cases, it makes economic sense to travel instead of taking a summer of expensive classes. The following are the main options available when a student or recently graduated student.

1. Study Abroad Program

There are numerous study abroad programs available on University campuses worldwide. Your university's international offices should have a list of all available programs. This could make economic sense in certain cases; especially if you are an international or out of state student at a University with high fees. I did a study abroad program in France, where the tuition was 20% of the international student fees I would have paid if I took them at the local campus.

2. Work Abroad Program

In certain cases, you can gain experience in your field of interest as an intern while gaining valuable international experience. This gives you inter-cultural work experience, which is appreciated by employers globally. If you are working in a country where English is not the predominant language, it gives you an opportunity to learn the local language. Learning a language is much faster if immersed in a local culture, than learning from a book or software.

For both options 1 and 2, I recommend taking 2-3 weeks at the end of the course/internship to travel around before returning back.

3. Taking time off to travel

This option gives you the best cultural and travel experience. Staying at different locations across the globe will give you the

opportunity to plan your voyage without any external restrictions. It is also a lot more economical than you can imagine.

You are paying for hotels, food, airplane tickets, other transportation etc. which can be expensive; but keep in mind that you don't pay for rent, car insurance, internet, electricity, gas or air conditioning. With a savings mentality and the tips included in this book, you will be well on your way to living the dream for a long time without breaking the bank.

Free options available

1. Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is a method of raising money for a particular project, that includes donations from a large number of people. To those who haven't done crowdfunding before, it seems impossible to have others pay for you to travel the world on your own. It is still, possible, however with one of the options below:

- a. Kickstarter is the most popular crowdfunding platform. However, it does not fund personal projects like world travel. You need to be working on a creative project in your region of interest. For example, if you are traveling to China; you could write a project on how global warming is affecting the region. The main downside to Kickstarter is that if you do not meet your funding goals within the allotted timeframe, you will not get to keep any of the funds. The major upside to Kickstarter is that it is currently more popular, so it has more donors.
- b. Indiegogo is a similar platform to Kickstarter. In this case, however, you can keep all the money that you collect. For example, if you pledge to collect \$15000 in 30 days and end up getting \$13000; you get \$13000 in Indiegogo and \$0 in Kickstarter.
- c. GoFundMe is a crowdfunding platform for only personal items, including travel.

- d. Trevolta is a crowdfunding platform only for travel.
- e. FundAnything can be used to fundraise for any reason.

For all of these it is recommended that you have an interesting project described by video and also update donors on your trip with stories/pictures/ideas etc.

2. Workaway

Workaway.info is a program where participants work in a foreign country in exchange for food and accommodation. This can be for a period of a few weeks to a few months. Make sure that you follow all labor laws in the country that you are visiting.

3. HeySuccess

HeySuccess is a program that connects students in over 150 countries with global opportunities in terms of competitions, internships, scholarships and projects. They are filtered by country of citizenship; type of opportunity and type of funding. Most of these opportunities are partially or completely funded. They offer a great opportunity to explore the world for free while gaining valuable experience.

4. Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering abroad is a great way to contribute to the world community while traveling the globe. However, most volunteering programs do not cover airfare and other costs. They also have additional volunteering fees involved and can be expensive.

A few volunteering programs that cover most of the costs include:

- a. Peace Corps: Peace Corps allow you to volunteer abroad in over 70 countries, for a period of up to 27 months. The benefits include partial concealment of your student loans, free round trip airfare, and a lump sum payment on completion.
- b. United Nations: Volunteers can work for 6 months in over 130 countries. It's free to volunteer and includes a monthly stipend, annual leave and medical insurance.
- c. WinRock: This program is very affordable, and even pays for your

airfare.

The above programs are pretty competitive and generally a great line on your resume if you are able to get in. Other affordable volunteer programs include WWOOFing, International Volunteer Headquarters, VAOPS, Volunteer South America, Ubelong.



Eat Cheap

One of the most prominent expenses in our travels is our daily intake of food. It is essential that we eat healthy and cheaply. The one way to do this is to cook most of your meals, supplemented with using discount cards for your meals at restaurants.

Cooking

Cooking saves you a tremendous amount of money and keeps your intake healthy. You can cook large quantities of food once a week to be used for the rest of the week. Get into the habit of cooking two or three different dishes each week. Each dish should last for 3-4 meals. These meals can be used for lunch and dinner, supplemented with a simple breakfast of eggs and/or oatmeal. You can also buy a few snacks to eat while checking out the area.

Most hotels/hostels have a common kitchen area with a refrigerator included. You just need to pack a couple of frying pans, a rice cooker and a few food handles. Also get 3-4 food containers to store the food in for the entire week. You can cook rice/pasta and store it for two days without it going bad. This only takes 15-20 minutes every 2-3 days. If you are particular about the taste, you may need to marinate the meat with spices for half a day. Freeze some quantity of your food so you can use it later on in the week. I find that this approach saves a lot of time. You cook just for a few hours a week and you have food available for the rest of the week.

Another time saver while cooking is making quick sandwiches. Buy a loaf of bread at a nearby grocery store. In less than 5 minutes, you can create a quick sandwich with lettuce, sliced tomatoes, meat and a healthy dressing. Do this if you're out of food for the week and you don't want to eat out.

Cooking is not only great for travel, but it is great for day-to-day living as well. It saves time and money and leads to a healthier lifestyle. Like everything else, practice makes perfect with cooking. You can check out several different recipes online or experiment with your own recipes.

Making your own food in hostels makes it easier to meet other people

in the hostel who are cooking as well. Since hostels are a great mix of people from all over the globe, you can get the opportunity to exchange food with people from all over and get a better cultural food experience.

Cooking also gives you a taste of the ways locals live their life on a day-to-day basis, which is a priceless experience. Chicken, milk, and fish all taste different in different parts of the globe. Different spices are used in different parts of the globe. Eating out all the time in Miami might take less effort, but that is definitely not what the average Miami resident does on a daily basis. That type of lifestyle would not last very long in expensive Miami.

Of course, cooking is easiest in Airbnb's with kitchens included, if you are interested in solo cooking.



Cooking using local produce is a great way to save money, experience the local culture and stay healthy while travelling

Eating Out

The above method of cooking gives you at least 5 meals a week to eat at restaurants and savor the local cuisine. There are several ways to get discounts on the local cuisines as well.

1. Groupon (www.groupon.com) has a list of discounts on popular restaurants and it is offered in more than 45 different countries. Besides food, you can also get discounts on 500 other markets including vacation deals, massages, etc. This is popular in small towns as well as in big cities. Sign up for this website and list your area, and you will get regular updates on all the deals available in your area¹.
2. Restaurant.com also has deals across the United States. One can

search by zip code and type of restaurant. It can be used if you have a craving for a particular type of food but cannot find it on Groupon. For example, if you are vacationing in Chicago; you can look for Chinatown in Chicago.

3. Livingsocial.com is a great place to get deals on restaurants if you are visiting a big city in United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. It also has deals on other activities that would be great fun to do in the city².
4. Zomato.com is a popular Indian website that reviews all the available restaurants in your city and gives you all the prices used. You can use it to set your budget for the night. Even though India is cheaper than the West in general, eating out in fancy restaurants in big cities has become expensive over the last 5-10 years. Groupon can also be used in India.
5. Chowhound.com is a community of food lovers who can address all your questions regarding cuisines in your holiday destination. For example, you can ask for the best Chinese restaurants in Paris, and you will receive responses from a variety of people giving their opinion on which Chinese restaurant in Paris is the best.

These are a few of the available online resources and communities that can improve your travel experience and save you plenty of money.



Transportation

The most expensive part of any trip abroad will be the transportation. A global voyage will involve expensive flight tickets, as well as money spent on public transport and hired transport. One way to improve the travel experience and reduce costs is to spend a minimum of 5-6 days in a single location. This lets you experience the environment in a more relaxed manner, and better understand the local culture. So, if you are travelling for 30 day to Europe, there should be 5-6 trips.

A lot of people will try to cram in 10-15 trips that are 2-3 days each. From personal experience, I can tell you that this does tire you significantly. By the end of 3 weeks, you are looking forward to the end of vacation. It's the same feeling as you looking forward to the end of the work year right before Christmas. Nobody wants that feeling on a global voyage.

A lot of people will argue that there are too many places to see and it had to be done this way to fit everything in the schedule. While that is true, one gains very little in cultural understanding and local flavor by visiting locations in this manner. More importantly, one is spending over twice the amount on transportation from location to location. And the longer the vacation, the more significant the expense becomes.

The methods of travel vary wildly in different corners of the globe. The quality of public transportation and hired transportation, roads and railways and public safety vary wildly not from country to country; but also from town to town. There are no solid rules of travel that can be applied in every corner of the global. Local knowledge gained from speaking to the receptionist at the hostel or hotel, or from your host at Couchsurfing and Airbnb would give you the best knowledge. However, there are a few trends that can be seen, and I am going to list those out based on my experiences.

1. Travel between continents

The only practical way of travelling between continents is by way of air travel. There are several ways to save money when travelling internationally.

a. Third Party Websites

Third party websites generally have the lowest prices. I prefer using the websites kayak.com and skyscanner.com to figure out the best deals while traveling internationally. It calculates the lowest price fare for your dates of travel, and predicts if the price is going to rise or fall in the coming week.

The downside to third party websites is that you don't directly book through the airline that you will be flying with. As a result, the customer service when you deal with missed flights, delayed flights and transfers can be pretty terrible.

One trick I like to use is to search for a cheap flight using a third-party website such as [kayak](http://kayak.com) or [skyscanner](http://skyscanner.com). Then I check the price of the direct flight. For example, if the cheapest flight when searched through [Kayak](http://kayak.com) is a Delta flight, I go to the Delta website and check their prices. If the price is the same or just a little higher (the threshold depends on the person), then I book it through the direct airline. This way I get better service at a similar price.

Other third-party websites that are great are [TripAdvisor](http://TripAdvisor.com), [Momondo](http://Momondo.com), [Whichbudget](http://Whichbudget.com), [Expedia](http://Expedia.com), [Jetradar](http://Jetradar.com), [Cheapoair](http://Cheapoair.com), [Kiwi](http://Kiwi.com), [Orbitz](http://Orbitz.com) etc.

b. Airline Credit Cards

Huge savings can be achieved through applications for airline credit cards. Most major airlines offer free miles for signing up for their credit card; Delta offers 30000 miles (free trip from Chicago to Atlanta), American Airlines offers 25000 miles, Southwest offers 50000 miles (free trip from Chicago to Hawaii) etc. These cards do have an annual fee of around \$90-\$100, but the value you get makes it worth the fee. Also, one can cancel these cards at any time if one feels the need to.

An international round trip on any of these airlines will add miles to the account that can be used for a flight. For example, flying round trip to the USA from India is around 8500 miles, and that can be used towards a free flight locally within the USA. So a little more than

two round trips to India would give you enough points to get a free flight within the USA.

Note on credit cards: One important thing to take into consideration when using credit cards as a student is to ensure that you do not spend beyond your means; and get into debt. If you use these cards for anything other than the free points; ensure that you are able to pay them off.

c. Time Your Booking and Trip

If you are flexible in your travel plans, you have options to make your flight a lot cheaper. Research has shown that to get the cheapest tickets, you should do the following:

1. The cheapest flights are **between Mid-Jan and early March**. This is off season and gives you the lowest prices.
2. The cheapest flights are generally on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. There is lower demand for these days as business travelers generally avoid these two days.
3. You get the best deals between **45-60 days** before the flight date.
4. You get the best deal if you book on a **Tuesday between 2 pm and 4 pm**.
5. If you're planning a weekend flight, then book the flight on Friday night or Saturday to get the best deal.

d. Flexible Destination

If you are unsure about your next destination and just looking for a good deal, AirFareWatchDog.com and SecretFlying.com are great websites.

Airfarewatchdog will keep a watch on the price for your chosen flight and notify you when the price drops. It also gives you a list of 50 great deals every day.

SecretFlying takes advantage of the fact that airline websites can have errors that drastically reduce the cost of flights. While you may not be around to notice, SecretFlying notifies you and lets you know about the great deals that come about because of these errors.

HolidayPirates.com is a similar website that can get you a great deal.

e. Hidden City Ticketing

Experienced travelers are aware of this technique. This technique is basically hiding your destination as a stopover. In some cases, using your destination as a stopover is much cheaper than booking a straight ticket. So, you just complete the first leg of your flight and get off at the stopover destination. For example, if you are need to travel from Atlanta to Chicago, you check the price and see that it costs \$200. But then you check the price of the flight between Atlanta and New York, with Chicago as a stopover. You see that the price is only \$130. You take the flight from Atlanta to New York, and get off at Chicago. You save yourself \$70. **Skiplagged.com** is one such website that checks for these flights.

There are drawbacks to this method. You cannot take any checked bags. You cannot book round trips as the rest of the round trip is canceled once you skip any portion of your trip. And you are also helpless if the airline decides to change the stopover destination at the last minute. They are only required to take you to your final destination.

f. Open Jaw Tickets

These are flights in which the return flight to the original destination is from a different location. For example, instead of flying from location A to B with return flight; you fly from A to B, go to location C via ground transit and take the return flight from C to A. The difference in price is generally marginal, but it allows you to visit several locations on a single trip. They can be booked on any regular web booking site (Kayak, Orbitz etc.) by using the “Multi-City” option instead of “Return Flights” option. In some cases, the Open Jaw tickets offer a significant discount over regular return flights.

g. Round the World Tickets

Round the World tickets allow you to preplan your entire trip around the world by picking your preferred locations and times of travel. Star Alliance (United Airlines) and One World (American

Airlines) are the most popular round the world ticket booking options.

They generally do not include any of the budget airlines within continents (such as RyanAir in Europe or Spirit in United States), so you can probably find cheaper routes if you do plan on traveling extensively within continents or have a flexible schedule.



Flights are at times the only realistic mode of travel between continents

2. USA and Canada

North America is a huge continent; and several different modes of transport can be used, depending on what your preferences are.

a. Air transportation

Air transportation is great when traveling from one corner of the country to another. It is most efficient form of transport, and travel between major cities is cheap and readily available. The Kayak.com website should give you the best deal for your particular journey. If you have one of the airline discount cards, you can use the miles from the card. It is important to check the Kayak website regularly as there can be significant differences in price based on the airline and the time of booking. The budget airlines are Sprint,

b. Bus/Rail Transportation

Bus Transportation is great for long term travelers that do not

have time constraints. It can be the cheapest form of transportation between cities.

Megabus.com connects most of America's major cities and is a fraction of the cost of a plane ticket. For example, a round ticket between Atlanta and Chicago for next week would cost you at least \$200. Megabus would cost you \$70. If you plan the trip a month ahead of schedule, it will cost you just \$30. The downside to the Megabus is that it takes 16 hours to complete what is just a 3 hour flight between Atlanta and Chicago. This shouldn't matter to you if cost is of greater significance than time.

Amtrak is the main rail transportation service in America. I find that it is very expensive compared to other possible forms of transportation and takes too much time.

c. Hired Transport

Bus transportation may at times be too slow in the big cities when you are traveling short distances. In most cases, Uber is very cost-effective in covering the short distances needed. Uber is a web based app that pairs you with a driver that's closest to your location. The drivers gets to your location and drives you to your destination for cheaper than a taxi. When there is a high demand for Uber, the price increases to 2-3 times the normal price. When this happens it's better to get a taxi.

Lyft is a competitor app which provides a similar service in major cities.

d. Car Transportation

Air transport is great between major cities, but in a lot of instances, the great local spots are a 2-3 hour drive away from the nearest airport. There may not be great public transportation available. One needs to drive to the destination. For that to happen, one needs a drivers' license. One's drivers' license may or may not be accepted in the country based on the home country for that license. Most countries allow you to use their license for a year before you need to switch to the home country's license. To check if your license is valid in the

country of vacation, call the country's consulate to get the information.



An International Drivers' Permit lets you drive all over the globe

One can apply for an international drivers' permit, which is recognized by over 150 countries³. The cost of an IDP (International Drivers' Permit) is around \$15. This can be obtained at the AAA (American Automobile Association) or National Auto Club³.

So once you have the license, what is the best way to get a car? The answer depends on your location and need. In most countries, it is best to rent a car at a car rental agency. In North America and Europe, Zip Car and Car2Go are two services that offer great flexibility in car rentals. They are both useful for short term rides (costing less than \$10 per hour). It could be great for a night out. For trips of a longer term, one would need to compare this to the local car rental prices; which vary by location. Also, note that each service does have its' downsides. Zip Car requires a \$60 annual fee; so its benefit depends on how often you use it. Car2Go has limited choice of cars; sometimes limited only to smart cars. These cars are fuel efficient and great to park; but it's not something you can impress your friends with^{4,5}.

e. Parking

Parking in major cities has always been a major issue to deal with. Technology has made that process easier in certain cities. SpotHero is a mobile app that allows the user to purchase guaranteed parking close to a desired location. You just input the location of your desired destination into your smart phone app and it gives you a number of parking spots around the location. The price and distance (from location) is mentioned for each location. SpotHero can help save a lot. Once I paid \$10 for all day parking in a downtown Chicago hotel

that would have otherwise cost me \$30 for half an hour. The SpotHero app is only in 12 locations as of now; San Francisco, Baltimore, Boston, Denver, Milwaukee, New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Baltimore, New Orleans, Milwaukee and Newark. There are plans to expand into a few other locations⁶.

ParkWhiz is a competitor app that does the same. It is, however, located in 114 different cities across the United States of America⁷.

3. Brazil

South America is an expensive country to travel, due to safety issues involved in most forms of public transport.

Skyscanner.com is most commonly used for air travel within the continent. Another website that posts daily promotional offers is melhoresdestinos.com.br (for Brazil). There are no major budget airlines in Brazil, which makes travel an expensive proposition.

Bus transport is the most cost effective form of transport within the major cities, but is not considered very safe when travelling between states. Uber has limited availability in South America, except for a few major cities. These cities are Baranquilla, Brasilia, Medellin, Santiago, Belo Horizonte, Cali, Sao Paulo, Bogota, Lima and Rio De Janeiro⁸.

4. Europe

Europe has the best public and private transportation systems on the planet. They have high speed rail that connects cities all across Europe; a very modern high-tech bus system; affordable air travel; and an amazing ferry system. The best way to travel differs based on the areas of Europe that you are traveling in; and also whether you are traveling within the country or crossing country borders.

The Schengen Visa: The Schengen visa allows you to travel within most of Europe with a single visa over a period of 60-90 days. It includes all of Northern and Western Europe, and most of Eastern Europe. It does not include the United Kingdom or the Slavic countries yet; but you might be able to visit these countries anyway if you are a

citizen of certain countries (US, UK, Australia etc.). The Schengen Visa makes travel across most of Europe a lot more convenient; making Europe a backpackers' paradise.

Travel within the Cities: Almost every city in Europe has highly developed mass transit systems in the form of metros, buses, trams and intercity railways. Daily metro passes vary in price from country to country but are generally very affordable.

European cities (especially those in Northern Europe) are also very bike friendly; and have bike paths in most streets. These generally cost between 10 to 15 Euros a day, with significant discounts for long term rentals. So, you can get your exercise in while commuting.

Cities also have a "City Bike" option. This allows you to rent a bike for free for up to 20/30 minutes as long as you park the bike in a "City Bike" bike stand. These bikes are generally used for commuting and are much cheaper than normal bike rentals for the long term.

Travel between Countries in Western Europe: The best way to travel within Western Europe is a combination of rail and bus. Trains are much faster and more comfortable than buses. However, a lot of the trains are older and have not been renovated. As a result, you may have some trains with no wi-fi or snacks on board. Also, when there is food on board; it tends to be overpriced.

Bus travel in Europe has improved significantly over the last ten years. Not only is it cheaper, top bus companies (Flixbus, Megabus etc) also have good wi-fi, snacks, comfortable seats, meals, toilets etc. In some buses, attendants notify you personally when it's time for your stop.

Travel between Countries in Northern Europe: Northern Europe can be considered the most technologically advanced region in the world. Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway have the highest standards of living in the world. Public transportation is great as a result. The best way to travel with Northern Europe is a combination of train and ferry. The trains are more modern and advanced than the rest of Europe.

However, travel between certain countries can only be done via ferry. Travel from Sweden to Finland, and from Finland to Estonia can only be done via ferry. But, don't worry, these ferries are equipped with the best comforts to keep you satisfied. The ferries have spacious cabins,

night clubs, cheap duty-free alcohol, great restaurants, saunas etc. They are generally affordable, but can get pricey in the peak summer months of June and July. If you are traveling in high season, you need to book a month or so in advance to get a good price.

Travel between Countries in Eastern Europe: Eastern Europe, especially the Baltic countries, have strongly modernized in the last couple of decades since the fall of the Soviet Union. They thus have a strong standard of living and a good public transport system. I prefer to use the buses here instead of the trains. A lot of the trains are older and built by the communist Soviet Union. These have the minimum comforts; and a lot of them have no A/C, wi-fi or food. The buses are more modern and similar to those in Western Europe.

Air Travel: The cost of air travel varies widely from location to location in Europe. In some cases, it can be cheaper than a rail ticket. In other cases, it can be 4-5 times more expensive and require multiple connections. So, I would recommend using air travel as a backup and using it only when you have to or when you get a great deal. Also note that most of the budget airlines (like RyanAir) do charge extra for checked bags, and that can add between 20-50 euros to the cost of the trip.

Best Apps for Travel: The most useful app for travel is the “**Rail Planner**” app. It downloads most of the train routes to your phone so you can pull up the routes when you are offline. This is a great app for planning your train route.

Another useful app is the “**Go Euro**” app. It lets you put in current and final destination, and tells you all the possible rail, ferry, bus and air routes to the final destination. It also gives you prices for all the routes.

Note on EurailPass: A Eurail Pass is a prepaid rail pass that lets one visit several countries within a certain period of time. That specified period of time can be 10 days, 20 days, 1 month or 3 months. It allows for unlimited entry, but is pricey. For example, a 3 month unlimited student (under age 25) pass costs around \$1200⁹.

To get \$1200 back one would have to take about 10-15 trips. It is a great deal for someone who wants to see all or most countries in

Europe within a certain period of time. I would not recommend it for someone looking for a good relaxing vacation. The traveler is inclined to try to get his money back by traveling more. This is not the purpose of our vacation. One needs to spend as much time as possible in one location to enjoy it. Spending 5-6 days in one location also lets you better understand the culture in that location. So, avoid the Eurail pass unless needed.

5. India

Train is the most commonly used public transport by the locals due to the lower cost. Buses are even cheaper than trains and easier to book, as there is a much higher demand for trains. Buses also stop at multiple locations within the city, so there is probably going to be a lower cost to get to your hotel or hostel. Buses, however, are a lot slower and a less comfortable than a train ride. The overnight bus ride can sometimes be a rocky ride over interesting Indian roads.

The main disadvantage of both forms of transport is the time taken to complete the trip. A 10-hour train trip can be replaced by a 45-minute flight. Flights in India are a lot cheaper than the US or any western country, especially if you book a month or so in advance. It is more expensive than a train or bus, but it is worth it if you are in a time crunch. “Cleartrip” is the website that generally gives you the best prices for flights within India.

If you are flying, make sure you check out the distance between the airport and the hotel. If you are far from the hotel and the location has no Uber services, it can get pretty expensive. For example, when I landed at Goa airport after a 1 hour flight that was \$25, I was two hours from the hotel. Since Goa has no Uber services, the taxis back and forth cost \$25 each. So the cost of the taxis was twice the flight. Luckily, I did come across two other passengers who were going the same direction; and was able to split the cost of the taxi. But make sure you take into account transport from your bus/train/flight stop to your hotel/hostel.

Uber has been a major breakthrough in India. It is a cost effective and convenient way to travel. Uber is available in most Indian cities. Public transport is currently being expanded in most major cities

throughout India, but is not yet the major form of transport. Some cities have websites that compete with Uber, such as 'Ola Taxi' and 'Taxi For Sure'. Avoid the auto-rickshaws and regular taxis in India, unless you absolutely need one (or the city has no Uber). They overcharge and have a habit of taking advantage of foreigners.

Driving in most major cities of India is not recommended for those not used to the traffic and congestion. It can be dangerous if one has not driven outside of North America and Europe.

Note 1: Most Indian air/flight/bus booking websites only accept Indian credit or debit cards for booking. If you are booking in India, ask your hotel or hostel manager to book the trip, and pay him back in cash.

6. South East Asia

Most big cities in South East Asia (except for cities in Cambodia and Laos) have good, affordable public transportation system. These include metros and buses. They also have ridesharing apps Uber and Grab. Even some of the smaller towns have these systems. However, in a lot of places, you may be reliant on taxis. It can be difficult to gauge the right price for a ride; but between asking your hotel/hostel receptionist, googling the local rate/km and asking for a metered taxi; you can reduce your chances of being scammed.

7. Japan

Japan has a very efficient public transportation system. This is the case both within the major cities and between the major cities. Though it may seem a little expensive, it is a lot cheaper than the taxis or ridesharing apps. The local metro can seem confusing, but it is well integrated with Google Maps; and you can find your way. If you are lost in Tokyo, most metro stations have attendants who can speak English and help you out. Ridesharing apps like Uber do exist, but they have not been used much; as the taxis are honest and not too expensive. The taxis do not try to rip you off and always use the meter.

8. China

China has a very good public and private transportation system.

The big cities of Shenzhen, Beijing and Shanghai have great metro, bus and rail cities. Intercity travel is world class; with high speed bullet trains connecting most cities in China.

Since Google is banned in China, Google maps is not available on Chinese internet. To get access to Google Maps, it is recommended to use a VPN service on your phone. VPN's such as Astrill and Express VPN work the best in China. Keep in mind that you will have to install these software beforehand, as these websites may be blocked on Chinese internet. You can also use Maps.ME and download the maps on to your phone beforehand.

One thing to keep in mind is that language will be a major issue in China. Most of the signs and train announcements will be in Chinese. If you are not accompanied by someone who knows Chinese, it is recommended that you spend some time planning out any trips beforehand. Talk to your hostel/hotel manager and learn about the different bus numbers /bus stops that may be required. Also, make sure to download the city maps in advance and monitor your location. China has very good mobile internet connection all over, so this should help you out a lot.

Again, I would not recommend driving anywhere in China; especially if you are used to driving in the West. You would firstly need a Chinese driving license; and it is very dangerous for someone who is used to normal driving procedures in countries like the US and UK.

9. Australia

Australia is a huge country with most of the travel possibilities between the major cities of Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and Hobart.

It is generally cost efficient to travel by air using discount airfare websites (Tiger, JetStar and Virgin) if you are travelling alone. If traveling in a group or with family, it is better to use the train or drive.

The roadways and railways in Australia are extremely well developed to support the mining industry. Australia has the second highest car ownership rate in the world. Rules vary by state for

regulations regarding acceptance of foreign drivers' license. You can use your country's driving license in all Australian states, except for Northern Territory.

Within the major cities, I find that it is most economical to use a weekly or monthly metro pass. The metro combined with the trams cover most of the city. If you are looking to save on time, then you can use Uber as an alternative.

Driving by car is also possible, but there are generally traffic and parking issues to deal with.

10. Africa

Flights are expensive in Africa due to the low supply of flights. You would need to take one if moving from one end of the continent to another. When travelling within a country or between countries, there are cheaper options. Buses and minivans (called trotro in Africa) are the preferred mode of transport, and are much cheaper than flights. Buses can be dangerous at times, depending on the time and location. Train journeys are more comfortable and safer, but they are infrequent and do not generally cover the entire country.

Within the cities, the main form of transport is taxi. They are readily available across Africa and affordable. 'Uber' is not commonplace and is only available in a few select countries in Africa (South Africa, Kenya and Egypt)⁸.

A note on Visas: For every country that you are visiting, make sure you check the visa requirements. These requirements vary wildly based on your country of origin and your current work /study location. This is true for transit visas as well. Some countries require transit visas for citizens of certain countries even if you don't leave the airport while traveling to another country. Visa information is available at www.visahq.com.



Accommodation

Figuring out where you are going to stay can be the most intimidating aspect of your voyage; especially if you have lived in the same apartment / house / location for a few years. The constant change of location will seem to be a very scary proposition looking forward. But it is the most amazing aspect of your journey. And there are plenty of ways to enjoy it without breaking the bank.

If you have worked at a job that gives you plenty of hotel reward points, now would be the time to use them. If not, there are plenty of options available so you don't have to spend a fortune staying at a hotel every single day. Here are a few of them:

1. Airbnb

Airbnb.com is a website that lets city dwellers rent out homes and apartments at a fraction of the cost of a hotel's night stay. For example, you can stay for \$50-\$70 a night in an Airbnb apartment in Chicago; instead of \$200-\$300 a night in a hotel. You will be staying in a host's apartment room. Each place is rated by the user after the stay. Airbnb is generally safe, as all locations are verified. If you are still worried; stay at those locations that have 15 or more positive ratings. Airbnb is available in most major cities across the globe.

2. Couchsurfing

Couchsurfing.com is a website that lets you stay at a host's place at no cost. You will likely sleep on the couch, and not have your own room. You will interact with your host significantly more than for Airbnb, and it is generally recommended to bring a small gift. Sometimes, the host prepares lunch/dinner as well. There is a \$25 annual fee, and your identity will be verified. You will also need to offer a place for others who may need a place to crash in your city.

3. Hostels

Hostels are a great way to enjoy your holiday at a cheap price; while making a lot of friends on the way. The costs are between \$5-\$100, depending on the location and the time of the year. You will generally be living with 4-6 people in a big room. There is also the option of rooms for 1-2 people in certain hostels. There will generally be lockers provided for you to lock away any valuables. You will meet people from all over the world in these hostels. I have had the most fun on my trips when I stayed at the hostels. There are events/trips organized by the hostels; and some hostels provide lunch/dinner as well.

Hosteling International is my favorite hostel. It is a chain of hostels located in major tourist destinations around the globe. All the hostels have a great atmosphere. Trips are organized by them every day, social events every night and they are generally located in the liveliest spots in the city.

4. House Sitting

This option allows you to take care of someone else's house while staying there for free. There are chores involved, and they differ based on your agreement with the landlord. Make sure that all the responsibilities are clearly agreed to by both parties before you sign up. There is an annual fee that is involved by the house sitting website. My favorite house sitting website is www.trustedhousesitters.com, which has a \$96 annual fee (or an option of \$72 for three months)¹⁰. Trustedhousesitters has the most houses available and it's a site that is regularly recommended.

5. Priceline

If you like the comfort of a hotel, Priceline.com may be able to get a hotel at a significant discount. The "Name your price" feature lets you choose how much you want to pay for a hotel; and priceline will try to get a hotel at that price for you.



Should I Be a Tourist?

Ok. We have already discussed that you are better off living in your destination, and not wasting money being a tourist. But what if you're in New Delhi or Paris for a few weeks? Everyone says you've got to see the Taj Mahal or the Eiffel Tower. You've got to spend money to see these places, right? Here are a few tips to deal with this issue:

1. Most cities around the world (especially Europe) have a free walking tour, where a tour guide shows you the most important sites of the city and explains the history and culture of the city. Most people do tip the guide a small amount for his trouble. During such tours, you sometimes get discounts on the museum prices. You can find these tours by doing a simple google search for walking tours of the city.
2. Ask the person at the front desk of your hotel or hostel (or the owner of your Airbnb/Couchsurfing) what the most important sites around the city are. They have local knowledge of the most important sites and the tourist traps.
3. Do not do a google search to determine this information. 10 different websites will give you 10 different answers on what the best sites are; and will leave you confused.
4. Finally, get a list of 2-3 places that you would like to visit based on information from the walking tour and your hotel/hostel guide. Make sure that these places are affordable and within your budget. You can use google for this, of course!



Jet Lag

Jet lag is among the biggest complaints for those who regularly travel long distances across the globe. It is effectively the disturbance of a body's sleep cycle due to the time difference at your travel destination. It occurs when you fly across a large amount of time zones over a short period of time. The time that it takes to recover from this is dependent on the number of time zones traversed. The number of days taken to recover is normally half the number of time zones. For example, if you are travelling across 10 time zones from New York to New Delhi; it takes an average of 5 days for you to completely recover. It is a painful 5 days. The experience ranges from being unable to sleep till 3 or 4 AM at night; to falling asleep at tea time while chatting with friends. The jet lag is often worse when you are travelling from a country in the western hemisphere to a country in the eastern hemisphere. There are, however, several ways to mitigate the impact of jet lag; and make your transition more comfortable.

1. Do not drink coffee or alcohol for 2-3 days before the flight.
2. Drink lots of water on the flight. Make sure that you are well hydrated.
3. Try to get as much sleep as you can on the flight.
4. If you are traveling east, you will find it difficult to go to sleep on time. Take a melatonin an hour or two before you want to sleep and try your best to sleep on time.
5. When you wake up in the morning, drink some coffee.
6. When you travel east, there is a tendency to sleep too early. Make sure you try to stay up till normal bedtime. Drink coffee and hang out with friends to help with staying up.
7. For the first few days after your flight, try to work and stay in natural light. And avoid artificial light as much as possible.



Fight the Language Barrier

Of course, if you are planning to travel around most of the world, you will come across regions where English is not spoken by a majority of the people. Unless you are planning a world trip across US, Canada, England and Australia. For others, day to day tasks become many times harder, and it will make your life a lot easier if you prepare yourself ahead of time.

The first tip I would give you is to travel with a friend or partner in a country with a foreign country. If you are alone, stay in a hostel with other foreigners. It is possible to learn how to complete day-to-day tasks in a foreign language, but being able to converse with locals is a lot more difficult. This makes it a lot lonelier when you can basically only converse with yourself in your time in that country.

That being said, it is definitely possible to quickly learn the basics of the language. Conversing with locals will cause language immersion, which is the most effective technique for learning languages. You can start off by noting the most common words and phrases used in the language. I have included the top 100 words and top 100 phrases in any language in the Appendix. These account for over 80% of any language. Memorizing these words will help you take care of day-to-day tasks, and get you on the path to conversational fluency in a few months.

When you initially converse with locals, you will find it difficult. Ask them to speak slowly. Note the words in the sentence that you recognize and try to frame the meaning of the sentence. This is very difficult in the beginning but gets a lot easier with time.



Handling Currency Conversion

Spending money abroad using most credit or debit cards involves a transaction fee for currency conversion. For most American cards, this is 3%. This may seem insignificant when you purchase everyday items. For example, the transaction fee is 30 cents for a \$10 lunch. However, over a long trip, this will cost you a lot. A year long trip of \$20000 will cost you an additional \$600 in credit card fees. That's the cost of a round trip from Chicago to Hawaii.

Credit Cards

Most airline credit cards have no foreign transaction fees. Every major credit card company and bank has a few credit cards with no foreign exchange fees. Most banks have at least one credit card with no foreign transaction fees. The Delta SkyMiles credit card is a good card, as it also allows you to get travel miles back every time you spend money.

Another good card is the City Thank You Premier Card by CitiBank.

Debit Cards

Always carry around \$50 worth of local currency, as there are shops/restaurants etc. in every corner of the globe that accept only cash. Again, most major ATM cards charge \$2-\$5 per withdrawal for currency conversion. The major banks that do not charge ATM fees are Charles Schwab and Capital One 360. This would be a good account to open up for a long distance trip.

I would suggest getting debit cards from more than one bank, and keeping one of the debit cards outside your wallet with your other valuables in the hotel/hostel safe. If your wallet gets lost or stolen, it is difficult to get a replacement card sent to you when you are constantly traveling. Also, not all hostels are good at handling incoming mail. The last thing you want on your holiday is running out of cash in a town where credit card machines are barely used. You might get away with this if you are in a major city, but even major cities have shops/restaurants that only deal with cash.

Online Money Transfers

If you own a foreign bank account in the country that you are staying in, very low currency conversion rates can be achieved using a company called “TransferWise”. TransferWise is a UK based company that achieves rates as low as 0.5% for transfers over 1000 British Pounds. They achieve this rate by being able to transfer money within banks in the same country instead of other countries.

Cash Conversions

Try to avoid cash currency conversions unless absolutely necessary. Most currency conversion places charge a significant percentage of the current exchange rate as a transaction fee. And this is double the case for airports, where the currency exchange fee is maximum.

Tipping

Tipping customs vary significantly across the world. Tipping in one culture may be essential; while it may be frowned on in others. And in some countries, it differs in different regions. Make sure you get the relevant tipping information from the local hostel/hostels.

Discount Cards

1. ISIC (International Student Identity Card): This is the most commonly used student discount card around the globe. An ISIC card is issued every 8 seconds in the world. It is not only a great discount card for travel, but also for daily living expenses in certain countries. It is recognized as an official student card in 250 universities across 32 countries. It has significant transportation discounts for bus, rail, tram, airfare etc. It has 70% savings on international calls. It has discounts for museums, movies, night-clubs. It also can be used for daily study utensils such as laptops, stationary etc¹¹.

It costs about \$25 and should arrive in 3-4 weeks after it is ordered online.

2. IYTC (International Youth Travel Center): The international youth travel card is similar to the ISIC, but it is available to non-students who are below 31 years of age. It only costs \$25 per year¹² and has discounts in over a hundred countries.

3. Nomad Card: The Nomad Card provides discounts in over six hundred hostels in 23 countries. Most of these are located in UK, Australia and USA. It costs about \$15 per year¹³.
4. YHA (Youth Hostel Association) Card: YHA Card offers discount to a hostel known as Hosteling International which is available in over 80 countries. It costs around \$12 per year for adults under 26; and around \$17 per year for those over 26¹⁴.



Your Smart Phone

If you are like most students, your smart phone is one of your most significant possessions. It contains all your travel plans, email, organizers, maps etc. It is important to have cell phone access and data access in most countries around the world.

Before you leave for your trip, unlock your smart phone. This can be done by calling your local carrier and asking them that you need to unlock your phone for travel. Only GSM phones can be unlocked. Phones from AT&T and T-Mobile are GSM phones and can be unlocked. Not all Sprint and Verizon phones are GSM enabled. If you have a Sprint or Verizon phone, check their website to see if the phone is GSM enabled. If not, you can purchase a GSM enabled phone on Amazon or other online store

Once you have unlocked your phone, you have two options to use it abroad:

1. You can purchase local SIM cards each time you enter a new country. This is the cheapest option, but the most inconvenient. You will be spending a significant percentage of your vacation trying to get a phone's SIM card, and at times it will be in the local language of the country.
2. You can purchase an international Roaming SIM card before you leave. These are very cost effective and can be used in most countries around the world. My favorite international SIM card is One SIM Card (www.onesimcard.com). It has coverage in over 200 countries, with free incoming calls in most countries and internet data coverage as well. Outgoing calls can be more expensive than local SIM's but they are affordable at 25 cents per minute. The card costs \$30 and can be purchased online¹⁶. Make sure that the card is compatible to your phone¹⁵.

Super Apps

Uber, Airbnb, Google Maps, Google Waze, Skype and HotSpot are some commonly used apps that I would recommend. There are other apps,

however, that are really useful on your journey.

1. CityMaps2Go / Maps.me

CityMaps2Go and Maps.me are apps that allow you to download maps on to your smart phone, so you can access them even when you aren't connected to a wireless or mobile network. Maps are available for locations all around the globe. The maps contain information about hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, nightlife etc. This is a godsend when end up in an area with no/bad internet connection.

2. TripIt

TripIt is an app that manages their travel itinerary based on the bookings made on your booking emails. Just forward your hotel booking emails, airline confirmation emails, rental confirmation emails to plans@tripit.com and it will organize your trip for you. It will send you reminders when a travel date is coming up.

It also allows you to upload your trip to facebook or share your trip with friends and family, so they are aware of your location.

3. Packing Pro

Packing Pro is an app that helps organize the items you need for your trips to make sure that you don't forget any items. You can create a list of general items that you need for a vacation and check these items on the list just before you leave for vacation. You can also do the same right before you leave for home to make sure that you didn't leave anything at the hotel.

You can create several different lists for different types of travel i.e. one list for camping, one for hiking and one for skiing. These lists can be synced with your email and other devices.

4. Gate-Guru

Gate-Guru is a great app that gives a complete blueprint of existing airports. It has ratings for every airport. There is a map of the airport with your location in the airport. It is a god-send if you get lost

at the airport. It also gives you restaurant reviews, deals on food and other services available at each of the airport terminals.

Charge on Your Phone

If you have ever lost charge on your smart phone, you know what a frustrating experience that can be. If this happens while you are actually travelling at a time when you need for your smart phone's location services, it can be difficult experience. Here are a few tips to help you reduce the likelihood of this happening:

- a. Purchase a power bank (portable charger). The Anker PowerCore power bank is the best one that I have come across.
- b. Set your smart phone to power saving mode when you are not using it.
- c. Turn off wifi and bluetooth until you actually need it.
- d. Uninstall any apps that you have not used in a long time and know that you do not need.
- e. Set a black background for your phone as it uses less power.



Use the Cloud

The use of cloud devices has increased exponentially over the last ten years. All work files are stored on cloud drives that are accessed by a secure network. A major portion of homework assignments are submitted to university cloud drives to maintain secure data records. Cloud data storage is especially important for global travelers, as there is an increased possibility of losing hardware storage devices where local data can be stored. The most commonly used cloud drives are the SkyDrive, DropBox and Google Drive. They are affordable. I use the Google drive 100GB plan which is just \$2 a month. If you are using less than 16 GB, the plan is free. If you have more than 100 GB/ 200 GB, I recommend using CrashPlan. CrashPlan provides unlimited storage for \$5 a month.

As a traveler, you will be access the cloud from anywhere in the world with an internet or a mobile network connection. This has increased security risks in public networks where multiple people are accessing the same network (as in coffee shop Wi-Fi, library Wi-Fi etc.). You can use certain software to reduce the security risk that is associated with public web surfing.

1. ExpressVPN: This is the best VPN available, and one of the only ones that works properly in China. It is very pricey compared to the other options.
2. DotVPN: This is a free extension to your Chrome browser. It is great because you can secure only the window that you are browsing. It is available for free, but you can get the paid version which is a little faster.
3. CyberGhost: This is another VPN that masks your IP address for free. The free version has limited VPN's available. For example, you can choose VPN's in certain countries around the world. The paid version (which is around \$30 a year) lets you choose VPN's in any country around the globe and has much faster internet speed.
4. ProVPN: ProVPN lets you access the internet with reduced risk of your browsing activity being spied. It also masks your location of

internet use.

5. VeraCrypt: VeraCrypt software allows you to encrypt the files on your computer so that it is not easily viewed by outsiders hacking into your computer.

Here are a few other ideas that I recommend in an era where people get hacked daily:

1. If you're like most people, your gmail account is the key to your life. All your bank accounts, social media accounts etc. If someone hacks into your gmail, he can reset your passwords to almost anything. If you are going to keep the same phone number while travelling, use the two-step authentication for gmail while logging in. When you select this, google sends a password to your phone each time you log in.

Note: If you change your number while traveling, don't do this as the two-step phone authentication. Do the two-step email notification instead.

2. Encrypt your hard drive to safe guard your files. Both Windows and Apple have this option.
3. Use different passwords for each service. Each password must be strong and secure; containing a combination of upper case and lower case letters, numbers and special characters. Check how safe your password is below using the website:

<http://www.passwordmeter.com/>

If your password has a strength of 80% or above, your chances of getting hacked are small.

4. Browse in private mode using "DuckDuckGo" browser. It doesn't track any of your activity, and is safe to use. The private browsing mode in conventional browsers are not very efficient in maintaining your privacy.
5. Encrypt your smart phone. Most modern smart phones have this option in the Settings of the phone. It greatly enhances your security and provides an additional layer of security against

hackers.



Health Insurance

You could be the epitome of perfect health; with perfectly healthy habits. Or you might have a body that's a walking hospital; that might be used by doctors for research to benefit humanity. In either case, it is vital to have health insurance on your journey. No matter how healthy you are, your body has adapted to a certain environment; with antibodies that are used to fighting germs for the local area at the local temperature. A sudden change in temperature and location can cause the healthiest person to have the sniffles. And even if you don't get the sniffles, there is always the random chance of an accident that can happen anywhere.

Health insurance is treated differently in different countries. In some countries, medical treatment is readily available for free/cheap; so it is not in the culture to get health insurance. In others, it is provided by the employer that you work for. In some, it is mandated by the government. If you are traveling while still on the job or at school, it should be provided by the company or school. One thing is you do have to call to verify exactly what you are covered for. But if you are not on a job or at school, there are a few companies that provide insurance worldwide at a reasonable cost.

1. My favorite global travel insurance is World Nomads. WorldNomads.com has insurance for every country that you travel to, and the prices are based on your country of residence. It is one of the most comprehensive travel plans, covering a range of adventure sports. They offer online learning resources and a safety guide for most locations around the globe. It also allows you to renew the policy while you are traveling¹⁸.
2. CareMed Insurance provides solid health coverage for people; and also allows for people of any nationality to purchase it. It is another good option for purchasing health insurance while traveling.

Immunizations

Immunization information is provided by the CDC on their travel

website for every country that one needs to visit. I recommend starting to look into this information a few months before the travel date. Some vaccines are not readily available, and the hospital may need a couple of weeks to get them. Also, immunizations for some diseases require consumption a month or so before reaching the destination. For example, if you are traveling to the Brazilian rainforests there is a risk of malaria due to mosquito bites and it is recommended to start a course of anti-malarial tablets two and a half weeks before you arrive. The course is to be stopped four weeks after departure from the rainforests.



Keep in Shape

One of the hardest parts of any long trip abroad is to stay in shape and maintain a certain level of fitness. The current fitness industry is structured for people who are on a fixed schedule in a certain location. Most gym memberships consist of a joining fee combined with a 6-12 month contract. There are other gyms/fitness programs that have month to month payment plan; but they do not have many locations globally. This is because the fitness industry flows with the old concept of travel. Most people travel for short vacations; or after retirement. On a short 4-5 day vacation, the vacationer is looking for an escape from current reality. That reality not only includes time away from the regular routine of the job and coworkers; but also from the responsibilities of exercise, housework, laundry and groceries.

However, when you are travelling as a student for a semester; or even taking a year off to travel, this is not a choice. There is not a wide choice available for exercise on vacation; but here are a few options:

1. Running

Running can be done anytime and anywhere. All it requires is a pair of running shoes and decently warm climate. I'm on the assumption that most people go on extended vacations in areas of warm climate. There are several smart phone apps that help you map out your run with distance traveled, calories burned and streets traversed. The app, MapOutMyRun, for Android is my favorite.

2. Online Workouts

For those who don't like running or are traveling in colder climates; there are quick workouts online that can keep you in shape. Matt Bouback's 20-minute Tabatha workout is my favorite. It is a comprehensive full body workout that can be done indoors. All it requires is a pair of 5 pound weights; which you can pack or borrow from a local gym. His video can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buR_O1vNjOU

If you have access to a gym at your hotel/hostels, this video shows a very effective 20-minute workout:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U95pP6n80C0>

You can also find these videos online by searching for “Matt Bouback” on Youtube. Matt Bouback is a top class certified fitness trainer with over 15 years of experience. Another great set of workouts are provided by YouTube channel “HasFit”. They have several free body workouts of 20-30 minutes with no weights.

3. Hiking/Trekking

If you are staying in a mountainous region, this is a great way to get your exercise in and see the entire region. Most hotels and hostels organize hikes almost every day. These last a majority of the day and are generally a lot of fun.

4. Walking City Tours

These are a good option if you are staying in a major city. You can explore the city with other like-minded people. Walking through a city is the best way to experience the city. Most of these tours last the whole day and are pretty extensive in their breadth. The walking tour I had in Berlin was about seven hours long, and it looked at twenty different spots in the city.



The Global Travel Community

The era of the world-wide web and mobile internet has made the world a smaller place. A young man in one of the remote villages in India with internet access can learn about daily Australian life and culture. A housewife in Manhattan, Kansas can learn how to cook Italian food online. A Brazilian man can fall in love with a Pakistani woman over the internet. It is not only easier to learn about different lands and connect with different people, but it is also easier to build a community of like-minded people on a global basis.

A community of travelers has developed over the past decade. The smaller world makes it easier to connect with people prior to your trip, so as to make your trip better. Airbnb and Couchsurfing are two examples of housing communities making travel better. Not only is it economically sensible to choose these communities, it also helps you build a network around the world. Building a relationship with your host will not only help you learn about the local culture, it helps bridge gap between the two cultures. Your host learns about your culture, and may become interested in making a visit. A bigger example of this is staying in a hostel. It is customary to make friends with your roommates in your hostel dorm. It makes your stay a better one; it helps you learn about different areas in the world. A six person dorm could have people from six different countries. So, wherever you stay, whether in a hostel, or Airbnb, or Couchsurfing, interacting with the people around you will give you a better experience.

There are also plenty of online communities, where you can ask questions related to your travel. You may wonder what the best restaurant in the city is or the cheapest way to travel between Rome and Southern France. A local member of these forums could give you an option that's not listed on your travel agency website. Here are a few good ones:

1. Rick Steve's travel forum has a large group of experienced travelers who provide great advice on a range of travel issues from budget travel to flight bookings to safety issues.
2. Lonely Planet Thorn Tree: www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree

is among the best travel forums. There are forums for basically every country in the world. You can ask questions to users on the site for information related to a particular place; and you should get an answer from someone living in those places. There is also a group of forums listed by interest or hobby. For example, there is a forum on the places to visit for those on a round the world trip on a gap year. There's another forum for those who need a weekend getaway. And there's one for those who want to spend a weekend sailing.

3. Wayn: www.Wayn.com is a beautiful website that connects you with travelers around the globe in a facebook style format. You can add friends, chat with friends and message them on this site. The website makes a list of all the places you have visited, and those you would like to visit, and gives you updates based on your preferences. Wayn is a great resource for all those who are on the road.
4. Virtual Tourist: VirtualTourist.com is a well laid out website that allows you to ask questions about a particular location to other members on the forum. It also lets you connect with other members of the forum, book hotels and view travel guides.
5. Yelp: Yelp is a cell phone app and website that lets you rate and view user ratings for restaurants in your area. It is a great resource to look at quality and types of food available in the area that you are staying in. It also does the same for restaurants, coffee shops, gas stations etc.
6. National Geographic Intelligent Travel: This travel blog gives you a true feel of the culture of the location that you wish to travel to. It tells you what's appreciated by the locals as what's unique to the place mentioned.



Scams

Being scammed is an inevitable part of travelling. Even the most experienced traveler has fallen prey to a scam at least once. The variety in cost of living, transportation and food types in different corners of the globe have led to a breeding ground for scams. There are certain scams that are common across the globe, and there are some that are location specific. The online world has also added a completely new dimension to the world of scams. It is easier to research for common scams online, but there are other scamsters who have used the internet to scam people as well. Here is a list of the most common scams encountered across the globe:

- A. **Taxi from the Airport:** A visitor to a new city generally has no idea how much it costs to get from the airport to his hotel or hostel. Uber is not readily available in every city in the globe. Armed with this knowledge, taxi drivers approach visitors (who look foreign) and offer them the “best rates” to get to the hostel. This will normally be 4-5 times the actual rate. So even when you negotiate it down, it is still several times the real rate.

Solution: Call your host or hostel manager before you arrive and ask him the real rate for the taxi. If possible, have him arrange a taxi to pick you up.

- B. **Hotel /Tourist Area Closed Down:** Once you get in a taxi or Uber to get to a hotel or tourist location, sometimes the driver says that the location is closed down. You may need to check into a new hotel or go to another location. This new location is probably in partnership with the taxi driver. Always keep in handy the number of your host or hostel manager. Call them if this situation happens. If your cell phone does not work yet, ask your taxi guy to drop you off at a phone booth to make the call.
- C. **Overpriced Items in Flea Market:** In most countries, flea

markets do not have a standard price for their goods and everything is negotiable. The initial starting price for these negotiations is normally dependent on how foreign you look and which language you speak. So you might pay many times the price no matter how good your negotiation skills are.

Solution: Shop with a local if you can. If you can't do that, then only shop at locations that have prices marked on the products or just avoid flea markets. You can also see if the items are available online.

- D. **Spill on your shirt:** There is a common trick where one scammer spills something on your shirt. Then another one starts cleaning it, and then the first one picks your wallet out of your pocket.

Solution: If someone spills something on you, get it cleaned at a restroom and avoid people who offer to clean it. It is also recommended to keep your wallet in a location that is harder to access.

- E. **Free Jewelry:** It is common to offer foreigners free items such as jewelry, and then demand money once they put it on.

Solution: Never accept any free items. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- F. **Handicapped or Child Beggars:** In some countries, gangs hire beggars as part of a business to collect money. Handicapped or Child Beggars are seen as a way to get more money, as people feel sorry for them. Once you give them money, they also know where you keep your money; so they have a better chance of picking your wallet in the future.

Solution: Never give any money to beggars. It is not worth the risk, as it is impossible to differentiate the legitimate ones from the rest.

- G. **Pickpockets:** This is the most common way for tourists to lose money in big cities across the globe. Scammers are always on the lookout for careless travelers in tourist hotspots. A wallet in your back pocket and a handbag are easy targets in very crowded areas. To prevent this... Guys, please transfer the wallet to your front pocket in crowded areas. Ladies.... Please hold your handbag with your hand and not with the strap on the shoulder in crowded areas.
- H. **New Tourist Locations:** It is a common habit to research the best tourist locations using a simple Google search. However, there is no filter that is applied to any website before it is shown on Google. So, you might come up with ten different locations using ten different websites. A lot of these websites are simply advertising their locations or being paid by these locations.

Solution: Talk to your hostel/host/hotel manager about best tourist locations. Also, when you are doing an online search, make a note of those locations that occur on every website. These are the popular sites.

These are very common scams you can encounter anywhere in the world. There are also location specific scams that you should google ahead of your trip to a new place.



Safety

Safety is an important factor in our day-to-day lives, as well as in our travels. We are safest in familiar surroundings because we are well aware of the dangerous areas to avoid, times to stay home and how to deal with the local people. Your hometown feels safe since the daily precautions that you take have become a habit. It is a natural response for you to avoid a bad area in your hometown and you don't think about it. However, your hometown may be unsafe for someone who is unfamiliar with it. They do not have the knowledge that you do.

We are less safe in an unfamiliar area because we have less knowledge of the area. As a solo traveler, it can be tempting to spend a disproportionate amount of time in your hotel or hostel due to fear of unfamiliar surroundings. However, with a few precautions, you can live safely like the locals. I recommend that you discuss safety rules with your hotel/hostel manager or host so you know which areas to avoid. They will also tell you when it is unsafe to be outside. Below is a list of a few general rules that should keep you safe in different locations across the globe.

1. Keep the contact number for the local embassy of your home country with you. They will help in case of any emergency.
2. Avoid arriving in a new location after dark: It may be cheaper to arrive at Rio de Janeiro or Johannesburg International Airport at 3 AM but dealing with unfamiliar surroundings in the dead of night is not advisable and may lead to trouble.
3. Remember big-city street smarts: When you are travelling in a foreign city, take the same basic precautions that you would in any big city. Make sure you keep in crowded areas and stay aware of your surroundings. If it seems like someone is following you while walking down the street, move to the other side of the street. Call an Uber or a taxi.
4. Use hotel/hostel resources: Any hostel that you stay in should organize multiple tourist trips every day. During these trips, you are accompanied by a tour guide and several other tourists in the

hostel. A lot of these tours are fairly cheap as well.

5. Learn local phrases: If you are travelling to a foreign country in which you don't speak the local language, learn how to say the following phrases in the local language:
 - a. "Do you speak English?"
 - b. "How do I get to.....?"
 - c. "Is this area safe?"

The above three are essential, and you may learn others to make your stay more comfortable.

6. Know what attire is appropriate: Different countries vary widely in their perception of appropriate attire. Countries in the East are far more conservative than in the West. What is considered appropriate in one culture can get you in trouble in another. Do your research on what is considered appropriate attire in the country that you are travelling to. As a general rule, it is better to err on the conservative side. Avoid flashy jewelry and clothing unless you are going to an event that requires it.
7. Have backup finances: There is always a minor chance that you could be robbed or lose your wallet. Do not travel around with your passport unless you need it for identification. Keep it in the safety locker that your hotel or hostel provides. In that locker, also keep an extra debit card and \$100 worth of cash as a backup.
8. Research online travel forums: In the digital world, you can get tons of information about the place that you are travelling to. Using the online forums described in Chapter 12; you can ask about the general safety of the areas that you will be travelling to and also communicate directly to people who live in the area.
9. Don't use unlicensed cabs: Kidnappings from unlicensed cabs are common in Mexico and in South and Central America. Make sure that the person who is giving you a ride is in a vehicle marked as a taxi.
10. Take care of your drink in a club: It is a good habit to always keep your drink with you until you finish it. If you leave it

unattended, there is always the chance of the drink being spiked to make you drowsy. This happens with more frequency in Central and South America, and it also happens in the developed world as well.

11. Do not carry medicines or electronics in your checked luggage. These can easily disappear during the trip; and it can cause a significant inconvenience.

It may seem like this is a lot to look out for on a world trip. However, you are probably already taking some of these precautions in your day-to-day life. When you avoid a bad area or pay attention to your surroundings, you are keeping yourself safe. Getting the right travel safety habits cultivated will help you enjoy the trip of a lifetime while remaining safe.

Sanitation

Sanitation is an important thing to consider in a lot of areas around the world. India, South East Asia, Africa etc. have several areas where you must be careful with your sanitation habits.

1. Make sure you always drink bottled water instead of tap water, if you are in a new location.
2. Make sure all the food that you eat is cooked.
3. Avoid any food items that include cut fruits and vegetables.
4. Check the expiry date of any food or liquid items that you buy.



Global Hotspots for Student Travelers

This book would not be complete without a mention the locations in the world that offer the best value for money when you are traveling. Just listing the cheapest locations wouldn't do justice to someone travelling, as some of the cheapest locations are neither safe nor worth visiting.

The locations listed below are some of the best travel destinations in the world, and are extremely affordable. Depending on your home country, you probably would find it cheaper to live in one of these great cities.

1. Bali, Indonesia

This is a small island in Indonesia and a world-famous vacation destination. It is also called the 'Island of the Gods'. Bali is a combination of beautiful beaches and rice fields with volcanos in the horizon. It has a great culinary history, with good quality food from all over the world. It is a very affordable vacation destination.



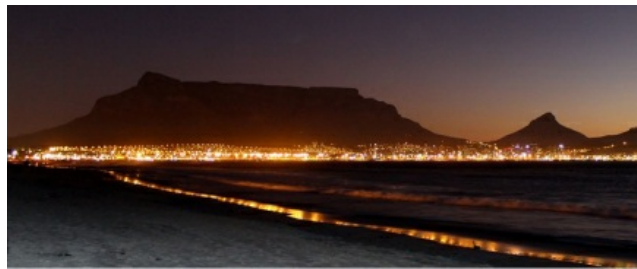
2. Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok is an explosion of culture in South East Asia. It is a great city with good nightlife, amazing food and friendly locals. The outdoors is a mix of tropical beaches and jungles. It has great weather all year around, and is extremely cheap.



3. Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town is a fun city with lots to do. It has mountains, beaches, great nightlife and nice weather all year around. It is very affordable, especially since the devaluation of their currency, the Rand.



4. Goa, India

Goa is a former Portuguese colony on the West coast of India. It is famous for its pretty beaches, amazing parties and affordable costs. People flock here from all over the globe to enjoy the great seafood as well. It is the cheapest of the destinations mentioned here.



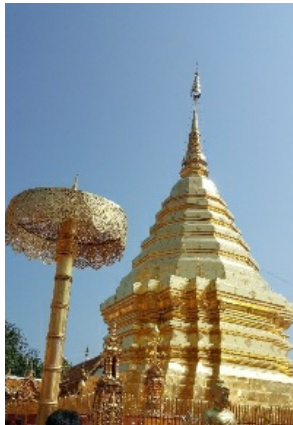
5. Siem Reap, Cambodia

Cambodia has become a hotspot in South East Asia in recent times. It is so cheap you feel guilty for paying so little. It has a bunch of ancient iconic sites and natural parks that can keep you occupied for a while.



6. Chiang Mai, Thailand

Chiang Mai is my favorite destination. It has everything a long-term traveler would need. It is pollution free and cheap (even cheaper than Bangkok). It has great food, fast wi-fi, a large expat community and good nightlife.



7. Budapest, Hungary

Budapest is growing in popularity as a nomad hotspot. It has affordable food, housing, alcohol and nightlife. It has beautiful architecture and great public transportation systems. It is safe and is centrally located in Europe (with rail access to other popular European destination).



8. Tallin, Estonia

Tallin is a tiny treasure just below Finland in Eastern Europe. It is an affordable destination with a high quality of living. If you are looking to do a study abroad, it has great universities at affordable prices (free if you are a EU citizen).



9. Bangalore, India

Bangalore, known as the “City of Gardens” is a beautiful destination in Southern India. It has a strong expat community and a very strong IT infrastructure. People from all over the country move here for jobs. This has brought about a multicultural feel to this city, with a variety of restaurants, bars, and businesses all around.





Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this book. I hope this book has made you eager to travel the globe, and you realize that the roadblocks of money and time are not good excuses. This book is not exhaustive; it is meant as a guide for budget travel. I have condensed and summarized it to include the most relevant information that you would need. This book is tailored towards college students; but it can be used by anybody looking to travel the world while saving money. This could be the retired couple or business traveler or the engineer who is taking off a year between jobs.

Travel is an experience that cannot be estimated with money. It'll teach you valuable intercultural lessons and build survival skills; and you will also learn more about yourself when you respond to situations you haven't encountered before. It will broaden your horizons and open your doors to new opportunities. After reading this book:

1. If you liked the book, please leave a review in the comments section or using the link below. It helps spread the message, and encourages other people to become global travelers.

https://www.amazon.com/review/create-review?ie=UTF8&asin=B012V4MOJW&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=133140011&ref_=cm_cr_dp_wrt_btm&store=digital-text#

2. Please email me at abhishekkumaramzn@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like any additions to the book. I promise a fast, personal response. I also understand that no book is perfect, so don't hesitate to let me know if there are errors or ambiguities in the book.



Appendix

Top 100 Words of Any Language¹⁹

You can use Google Translate or Babel Fish to find the equivalent of the word in the foreign language

1. the
2. of
3. and
4. a
5. to
6. in
7. is
8. you
9. that
10. it
11. he
12. was
13. for
14. on
15. are
16. as
17. with
18. his
19. they
20. I
21. at
22. be
23. this
24. have
25. from
26. or
27. one
28. had
29. by

30. word
31. but
32. not
33. what
34. all
35. were
36. we
37. when
38. your
39. can
40. said
41. there
42. use
43. an
44. each
45. which
46. she
47. do
48. how
49. their
50. if
51. will
52. up
53. other
54. about
55. out
56. many
57. then
58. them
59. these
60. so
61. some
62. her
63. would
64. make
65. like
66. him

67. into
68. time
69. has
70. look
71. two
72. more
73. write
74. go
75. see
76. number
77. no
78. way
79. could
80. people
81. my
82. than
83. first
84. water
85. been
86. call
87. who
88. oil
89. its
90. now
91. find
92. long
93. down
94. day
95. did
96. get
97. come
98. made
99. may
100. Part

Top 100 Phrases

- 1) Hello!
- 2) How are you? / What's up?
- 3) I'm fine. And you?
- 4) Please.
- 5) Thank you. / Thank you very much.
- 6) You're Welcome
- 7) Goodbye. / Bye. / See you soon.
- 8) Cheers!
- 9) Excuse me.
- 10) I'm sorry.
- 11) What's your name?
- 12) I'm... / My name is... / I am called...
- 13) Nice to meet you.
- 14) Where are you from?
- 15) I'm from...
- 16) I'd like to introduce my friend/wife/husband.
- 17) How old are you?
- 18) I'm... years old.
- 19) What do you do for a living?
- 20) I'm a/an...
- 21) What do you do for fun? / What are your hobbies?
- 22) I (don't) like...
- 23) Yes.
- 24) No.
- 25) Do you speak...?
- 26) I (don't) understand.
- 27) I speak a little...
- 28) I (don't) speak...
- 29) Could you please speak a little slower?
- 30) Could you write that down?
- 31) Could you repeat that?
- 32) How do you say...?
- 33) What does... mean?
- 34) What time is it?
- 35) It's (five) o'clock.
- 36) How much?
- 37) I would like...

- 38) Can I pay by credit card/debit card?
- 39) Here you go.
- 40) Could I see this/that one?
- 41) What time do you open/close?
- 42) Do you have this in small/large/medium?
- 43) Do you have anything cheaper?
- 44) It's too expensive.
- 45) I'll give you... for it.
- 46) Where can I exchange money?
- 47) How much for a first class/second class/economy ticket to...?
- 48) A one-way/return ticket to... please.
- 49) Here's my passport.
- 50) What time does the bus/train/plane/ferry from... arrive?
- 51) What time does the bus/train/plane/ferry to... depart?
- 52) Which platform/gate/terminal?
- 53) Is the bus/train/plane direct?
- 54) Do I have to change buses/trains?
- 55) Do I need a seat reservation?
- 56) Is this seat taken?
- 57) When is the next train/bus/minibus/ferry to...?
- 58) Could you call me a taxi?
- 59) I'd like to go to...
- 60) Could you let me know when to get off?
- 61) Where could I rent a bike/car?
- 62) I'd like to rent a bike/car.
- 63) Could you recommend a good restaurant?
- 64) What would you recommend?
- 65) What are some local specialties?
- 66) What is the special of the day?
- 67) Could I see the menu, please?
- 68) A beer/coffee/tea, please.
- 69) Could I get the bill, please. / The check, please.
- 70) I'm allergic to...
- 71) That was delicious!
- 72) This isn't what I ordered.
- 73) Can I buy you a drink?
- 74) Let's have another!

- 75) How do I get to...?
- 76) It's on the left/on the right/straight ahead/at the corner.
- 77) How far is...?
- 78) Where is the closest bank/post office/exchange office?
- 79) Where can I find tourist information?
- 80) Do you have a map?
- 81) Can you show me that on the map?
- 82) Where is the (American) embassy/consulate?
- 83) What is the entrance fee?
- 84) What is that building?
- 85) What's on at the cinema/theatre/opera tonight?
- 86) That's a beautiful church/cathedral/building.
- 87) What is there to see around here?
- 88) I have a reservation.
- 89) Do you have any single/double rooms available?
- 90) Could I see the room?
- 91) I'd like to stay for... nights.
- 92) Is breakfast included?
- 93) The TV/air conditioner/lamp in my room doesn't work.
- 94) Could I get a different room?
- 95) Is there a restaurant here?
- 96) Help!
- 97) I need a doctor/dentist/police officer.
- 98) Is there pharmacy nearby?
- 99) Can I use your phone?
- 100) Call the police/ambulance!
- 101) Leave me alone!



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