



TRAVELING ON BUDGET

2020

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This work is the product of my own efforts exclusively. All sources used are included in the bibliography and explicit reference is made to each one of them where they have been used in the text.

Summary

The aim of this work is to introduce smarter ways of traveling. Creating not only cheap trips but making it a lifestyle. Having best experience without spending a lot of money. How? When? With whom? All the answers that not only poor, but rich people can take notes on about traveling. Saving time means saving money, that's what this article is about- taking all that is given, not only from voyage, nevertheless from life as well.

Keywords: traveling, saving money, sightseeing, voyage

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1. INTRODUCTION

Before XXI century traveling for Lithuanians was a luxury in average person life. Airplane tickets were expensive, borders were closed, and Russians were holding every piece of freedom in their hands. However, when Lithuania joined European Union in 2004 and got back its power many things changed for ordinary Lithuanian. Now more and more people can travel on daily basis or at least once a year. It is not necessary to be rich, almost everyone can do it. Research on travelling in a new report by the World Youth Student and Educational (WYSE) Travel Confederation, a global not-for-profit membership organization based in Amsterdam shown 20% of travelers are millennials. Nowadays traveling is the new trend, it is almost like a sport for people to compete in how many different countries they have been. But how they get all that money for traveling? Can cheap trip overshadow the expensive one? Not everyone knows how to save money during their trip to squeeze the best experience of it while spending much less. Therefore, this report will give all the necessary information on cheap traveling and tips how to plan or not to plan readers trip.

2. DESTINATION PICKING

2.1. TRIP TYPE

Firstly, the best way to save as much as possible is by choosing the right destination. In order to find most suitable option, it is necessary to do a research. The reader is advised to make up their minds on what kind of trip they want, before doing their research. It can be more focused on sightseeing or relaxing. If relaxation and fun is the main idea, a country with a warmer climate is a choice that makes sense. On the other hand, if the focus is on exploration, weather is not really an issue. As well choosing the right date is very important, do not choose international vacation dates, for example Christmas period, Easter week, in the middle of summer, etc. These dates will be the most expensive and prices will be raised comparing to other days. It is smarter to travel when touristic seasons are over, for instance beginning of September is the best month. Museums and other famous objects change their entrance prices to winter season. As well it will not be crowded, and the weather still be fair- to- middling. In addition, best season for feeling tranquility vibes in tropical atmosphere is at the beginning of summer or end of spring. When it is not too cold, nor hot moreover other travelers have not started their trips yet, that means it saves time and time is money during its trip.

2.2. FINDING CHEAP COUNTRIES

When season is chosen, it is time to choose destination. Googling what are the cheapest countries always helps. Usually more dangerous or countries that are in war zone are cheapest, but it is better not to pick these nations. Of course, it is sometimes worth the risk, but it is better to be safe than sorry. Doing a research on a country that reader want to travel to before deciding, to see if it safe, interesting for reader and has a preferable climate. Always keep in mind that poorer countries will be cheaper. In particular, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia are cheap countries, but they might be not be as safe as Croatia, Latvia, Portugal. Other key point is to consider how many days will the trip take. If it is only for weekend, reader would like to choose a bigger city in order to see more without having to take trains or busses. However, if it is a long holiday, traveling to smaller countries might be better in order to tick that country out of your bucket list and see all of it per one time. Nonetheless, avoid going to well-loved touristic cities for a whole period of a trip as it will be more expensive to get accommodation there.

2.3. BUYING TICKETS

The best timing for buying not only airplane tickets, but as well booking apartment, ferry tickets or any other ticket is best 2 months before the date. In some occasions it gets cheaper before 1 month, but 2 months is always a safe bet, for not losing lots of money. The key on finding lowest price airplane ticket is on checking everyday apps that show lowest prices to random destinations. Because cheap tickets get sold out quickly and turning on notifications for these kinds of sites before even planning a trip can save huge amounts. Air companies sell their tickets even for 5 euros sometimes. But it is only a good option for more vacant people, those who can drop everything they are doing and just leave. To others it is better to check these sites as well but set a date when searching. Most of the trip budget goes to airplane tickets and it is better to get them cheap in order to spend more during the voyage. Also, when looking for tickets it is recommended to go through incognito mode, so that companies would not see that the demand of current dates are high and would not rise prices.

3. TRANSPORTATION

3.1. AIRPLANE

The main advantage of traveling by plane is that people can travel to any country on earth without having to change your mode of transportation, like those that are land locked, and

countries isolated from the rest of the world. As well you can get high up in the air for sightseeing. From Mount Fuji to seeing the sunrise and the curvature of the Earth, it's all possible with airplanes. Besides that, it is possible to get from place to place faster than most other transportation methods, under ideal conditions. If discomfort is not an issue, air travel is relatively cheap nowadays. So, getting from place to place fast and economically. But despite the advantage there are drawbacks as well. It's usually time consuming to go through airport security. Air tickets can be expensive if you want to travel comfortably by air. Can be uncomfortable for people who are afraid of heights or flying, even for people who are not scared of flying turbulence can rise stress levels a lot. Sometimes flight deletions occur, and it can mess up a lot of plans even the whole trip. Not only delay can change plans, but lost luggage can make you lose a lot of money as well. Also, it is sad that bringing back present to family can be impossible, as there are not a lot of space and luggage must fit the weight requirements.

3.2. TRAIN

Comparing to buses, cars or planes, many trains very comfortable. The seats are almost as same as in other vehicles, but advantage is that travelers don't have to wear seat belts and are free to walk up and down the length of the train while it's moving. Some trains have restaurant with gourmet menus and waiter services, others have cafes that serve just basic snacks and drinks. Also, overnight travelers may have the option to pay extra for a private sleeping booth, complete with beds and, sometimes, full bathrooms. But with trains travelers don't have the advantage of stopping in specific areas to look around or go to a restaurant. Passenger must adapt to the train schedule. The same as on a plane, passenger can expect to get up-close and personal with neighbors sitting on a train. Some trains have seats that face each other, which can be awkward when you're seated with strangers. Besides, neighbors might carry on loud phone calls during the trip and disturb traveler's relaxation time.

3.3. CAR

The greatest advantage of traveling with car is the privacy that comes with it, driver can do whatever he wants. Not needing to worry about anyone hogging up space on seat. Also don't need to worry about other people snoring or speaking when it's passenger's relaxation time. Furthermore, driver is the one who dictates the rules of the trip. As well as when the arrival time can be flexible. After arrival

to destination car is always nearby, meaning driver is always free to go wherever it is needed to go to. As much as travelling with your car does have its advantages, there is also the bad that come with it. Firstly, there is the issue of distance. This is how far driver wants to go as there are some places that your car just can't reach. Then there is the issue of cost. To travel with your car, it is needed to factor in the cost of servicing the car as well as the cost of fuel or even paying road fees. Then there is also the fatigue that comes with driving for too long. Traveler might not end up enjoying his or hers holiday due to being too tired from driving, only to just drive back more exhausted than he/ she was before.

3.4. BUS

Busses are almost always cheaper than other forms of international travel, but here is a more comprehensive list of all the pros and cons of traveling by bus. The main advantage is that booking early to ensure that traveling at a set time and not risk missing out on chosen journey or booking at the last minute for maximum flexibility. Some bus services allow you to reserve specific seats so that you can sit together with friends/family or just choose somewhere in the bus that you prefer. For example, when traveling somewhere new it is better to get a seat near window to see the views and it counts almost as visiting the place as you can see everything through window. Moreover, bus companies are offering premium services as part of their standard features, including things like free wi-fi and electrical or USB sockets to keep charged and entertained while on the road. Also, short check-in times mean passengers can arrive just half an hour before departure, giving time to hand over luggage and get comfortable before setting off. Luggage allowance is more generous than on the airlines and on trains because buses have plenty of space to store it for the journey. It stays on the bus, so there is no need to worry about it to disappear. In addition, bus stations are usually centrally located and great for getting closer to destination than an airport or train which are usually outside city center. However, there are some companies that does not allow to book specific seats and passenger may end up seated apart from friends, or sitting somewhere uncomfortable, like right next to the toilet or stranger. Additionally, bus journeys take far longer than journeys by train or plane, though the difference is not so great once taken into account the delays incurred by having to check in early and wait for luggage to be unloaded.

4. TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION. WHERE AND WHEN TO BOOK?

4.1. HOTELS

Hotel is the most expensive accommodation of all the options available. Hotels and resorts are a great way to stay if the trip is based on luxurious getaway. Most hotels offer the comfort or convenience that some travelers are seeking depending on the amenities being offered. Main disadvantage of hotels is that they do not offer kitchen and eating breakfast in a restaurant can make trip a lot more expensive. Although, it is possible to get a decent hotel for a reasonable price. Hotels represent comfort, but if in order to save money people should choose other options that are available. If traveler still wants to rent a hotel it is highly recommended to use Booking.com site. This site gives cheapest prices, it is even sometimes cheaper than looking through official hotel site and usually it gives some extra bonus point for next travel or even for current one if the user is new. It does not make a huge difference when to book as the prices are usually steady in this site. However, user should not make a booking 2 weeks of arrival as the best and cheapest hotels may be already sold out.

4.2. SHORT-TERM RENTALS

I would highly recommend this type of accommodation as this one is well-liked by many travelers. It gives a lot of options to choose from. In this kind of housing person can choose from luxurious flats in city center, to small beach houses and even caves or nontraditional flats. They offer all kinds of additional services for free as a pool or a private gym. The most popular site for searching of this type of accommodation is Airbnb. In this site it is available to rent not only entire flat, but a room or a bed in a room, it all depends on how much money can person spend and how many people are traveling together. For booking, I would recommend as soon as possible, prices can change and most of the listings get booked really fast if price and location ratio is decent. Do not forget to check the reviews of the host as scams can occur in this site, it is better to stay in super host house as they are already very experienced and hosted a lot of people. I prefer choosing a flat with a host if it is a trip where sightseeing is the main point. They can make your trip more pleasant and give a lot of information, recommendations where to go and what to see. Hosts are usually very friendly, and they can even become good friends and can bring more colors and fun to your trip.

4.3. HOSTELS

First of all, hostels are one of many forms of cheap accommodation. A hostel room can cost anywhere between 10 euros to 40 euros per night. It is possible to get a private room, 4-bed dorm, 6-

bed dorm, 8-bed dorm, or more. The more beds, the cheaper it is. Options are choosing from either all male dorm, all female dorm, or a mixed dorm. Some hostels are also really social and it's a great way to travel and meet other travelers. This is especially good for a solo traveler and new to traveling. Most hostels also organize group trips and give you detailed information on local attractions. Some have bars, others don't. All hostels generally have quiet hours in both the common areas and inside the dorm rooms. Each hostel is different in what they offer. A lot of people are hesitant to stay in a hostel for one reason or another. However, they really are a great way to travel solo and meet people. Booking.com gives a huge variety where to choose hostels from, cheapest ones usually get booked fast as well, snoozing means losing.

4.4. COUCHSURFING

Couchsurfing sites are a good way to get free lodging and get to know the culture from a local perspective. Sites like Couchsurfing and other sites allow for locals to use a bed in their apartment, extra bedroom, or any other available space to host someone. It is great because aside from free lodging, also getting to explore the city with someone who knows all the traditions of the visiting country. Picking the right host is beneficial, they will steer clear any tourist traps and show hot spots that the locals like to visit. These sites are a good way to meet new people, have a different type of voyage, learn a new language, foster a cultural exchange, and see things you may have otherwise missed. There are a few things that is mandatory to know before booking through one of these sites. It requires to fill out a profile. Making sure that profile information is as detailed as possible and adding photos can help on finding the right couch surfing host and wait for a verification after adding an address and a credit card. This is done for safety reasons. Getting verified isn't mandatory, but by doing this helps getting a lot of references. Attending a Couchsurfing meetup or messaging and hanging out with someone from the site can help with getting references. It's a common practice to leave each other a reference after. Asking friends to leave you a personal reference can assist as well. A few of them are enough to get started using the app.

5. TIPS AND TRICKS

5.1. TRANSPORTATION

In order to have a good trip it must be well planned, and planning should not start during the trip it should begin just after buying tickets. Planning should include transportation, famous local objects, tours, etc. Firstly, finding a local bus from the airport might be the cheapest option if accommodation is located city. Most airports have local busses from airport to center. If this option is not available,

accommodation might offer transfer services. Some offer them for free some for a fee, but it is cheaper than renting a transfer company. Usually, the most expensive one is getting a taxi, they charge extra if they are waiting in airport, but calling taxi or getting an app (mostly all countries have taxi apps), can offer a more decent price. Same thing with traveling from flat to airport. If apartment is located in city center where typically all sights are, it is better to walk during whole trip on foot. It will not only save a lot of money but allow to see more. First thing after arrival go to information point and take free map. Divide it into parts (Trip duration depict the number of parts) where wanted to see sights are and go to each area on a different day. If walking is not an option, try do a research to find discounts for bus or metro tickets. Sometimes office box offers 10 tickets for cheaper price which is a great deal. Apps can always be a good help. They have more offers and it is easier to buy tickets through there as in box office workers might not speak English, but apps are written not only by local language but English too.

5.2. SIGHTS

Doing a search on what is mostly visited or interesting in foreign country is a crucial. Most popular way to search for sights is through social media. Books or articles only provide well known touristic places where it is usually crowded. However, tags, location pins on social media platform as Instagram can show hidden gems of country, that mostly are not well known. Local people show what they like the most in their country through their photos. Although, research before is needed, but let's not cross out the possibility of learning what to see through people that are met during the trip. Relationships and new connections can save money as local people know how to get everywhere cheaper. If making friend is not an option, then Googling for best prices to the museums should be. Some cities have special days when entrance to museums or sights are free. If trip is made by a pair of people, not a solo trip, sometimes in news papers or websites there are deals 2 for one, which saves a lot of cash. For instance, for discounts in London there is a website, that has many