

How to... Plan the Trip of Your Dreams



There are a lot of things to consider when going on a trip, regardless of your destination. During the planning phase of my trips, I find it helpful to ask myself some questions to help me focus my planning. That way, I will have the type of trip I want - enjoyable and memorable.

Start By Asking Yourself These Questions...



How Long Will My Trip Be?

1 week? 10 days? 2 weeks? Longer?



What Type of Trip Do I Want?

Adventure? Relaxation? Romance? Eco Tour? Culinary Tour? A combination?



How Will I Get From Place to Place?

Rental car? Taxi? Private van? Tour Bus? Moped? Bicycle? Airplane?



Where Do I Want To Stay?

In the mountains? By the beach? In the city? In the country? A combination of 2 (or more)?



What Type of Lodging Do I Want?

Local hotel? Resort? Cabin? Chain hotel? Private rental? Hostel? Someone's home?



What Activities Do I Want To Do/Try?

Ziplining? Whitewater rafting? Hiking? Snorkeling?



What Do I Want To See?

Any must-see points-of-interest? National parks I want to visit? Tours I want to go on?

Determine Your Budget

How much do I want to spend?



Is my budget fixed or flexible?

YOUR BUDGET SHOULD INCLUDE:
Airfare, lodging, transportation (and associated taxes, additional fees, etc.)
Other trip-related expenses such as food, drinks, tours, tips, souvenirs.
Additional charges like WiFi, parking, and other miscellaneous costs.

TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MONEY:
Book everything together vs. separately. You usually get a better deal.
Stay at an all-inclusive resort. Food and drinks (non-alcoholic, drinks with rail alcohol) are usually included in the price and can save you a considerable amount of money.

Book Your Trip



Option #1: Use a Travel Agent

Travel agents often have the inside scoop about a particular area, hotel, cruise line, etc.



Option #2: Use AAA Travel

AAA membership includes access to travel specialists as well as free trip guides.



Option #3: Book Online

YOU CAN FIND TRIP PACKAGES ON SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR WEBSITES SUCH AS:



Groupon has a section called "Getaways" with trip packages for local, domestic & international trips. Be sure to check the travel dates, FAQs and fine print.



eBay has a "Travel" section. You can find trip deals and timeshare rentals here. Be sure to check the travel dates and fine print.



These sites offer vacation rentals - from single rooms to entire condos and homes. Both have become popular in recent years.



This site allows you to connect with people all over the world, stay in someone's home for free, and travel like a local.



These sites offer reviews from other travelers, information about various areas, as well as the ability to book your trip.

Start the Countdown!

