

Welcome to



TRAVEL CLUB

Tips for Planning an Epic Vacation

The session will start shortly.

A scenic view of Moraine Lake in Alberta, Canada. The image shows a turquoise lake in the foreground, surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, there are majestic, snow-capped mountains with rugged, rocky peaks. The sky is a clear, light blue. The overall scene is a beautiful representation of a mountain wilderness.

Tips for Planning an Epic Vacation

Moraine Lake, Alberta

- 1st family vacation 1989
- 50th state 7 years later
- Japan, Germany, Kazakhstan
- +Many more!



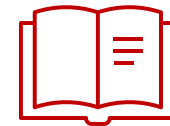
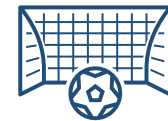
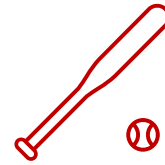
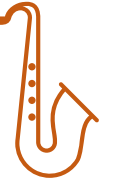


Brainstorming

Convict Lake, California

What do you want to see/experience?

- Scuba dive or snorkel
- Hike mountains, walk on glaciers
- Lay on the beach
- Lounge at a pool
- Culture
- Architecture, monuments, ancient ruins
- Food
- Music festival or performance, sporting event
- Good deals?



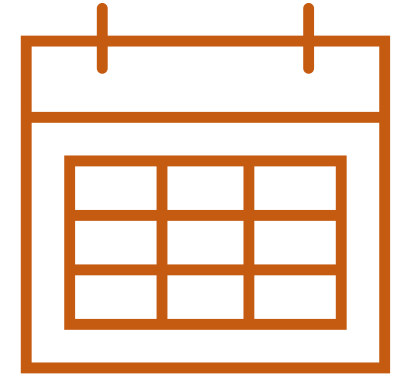


Where to start?

Mono Lake, California

How long can you be away?

- Long weekend
- 1 week
- 2 weeks+



How long will it take to arrive at your destination?

- Make the most of your time

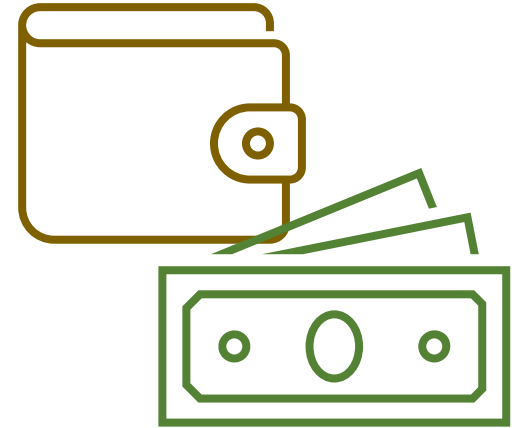
Best time of year to go?

- Plan around events
 - Natural or cultural
- Weather
 - Avoid rainy seasons
 - Avoid high heat/humidity
 - Avoid choppy seas
- Avoid busiest times of year (often summer)
 - Try shoulder season aka "low season"



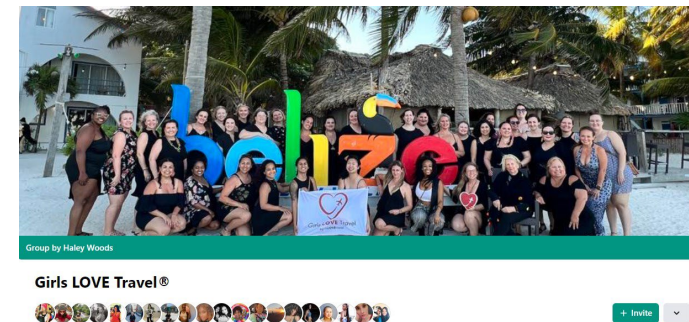
Set a budget or rough budget

- Sample
 - \$120/night on lodging
 - \$75/day food & beverages
 - \$500 roundtrip airfare (including checked bags)



Resources to help you plan

- Rick Steves books and TV show (PBS) for Europe
- Rent books from library or buy used on Amazon
 - National Geographic Traveler guides (color pictures!)
- Youtube videos/vloggers, Earth Trekkers blog
- Instagram, follow hashtags
- Search travel groups (e.g. Girls Love Travel), TripAdvisor
- Really want to be over-the-top organized?
Build a Google MyMap....



+ New

My Drive

Computers

Shared with me

Recent

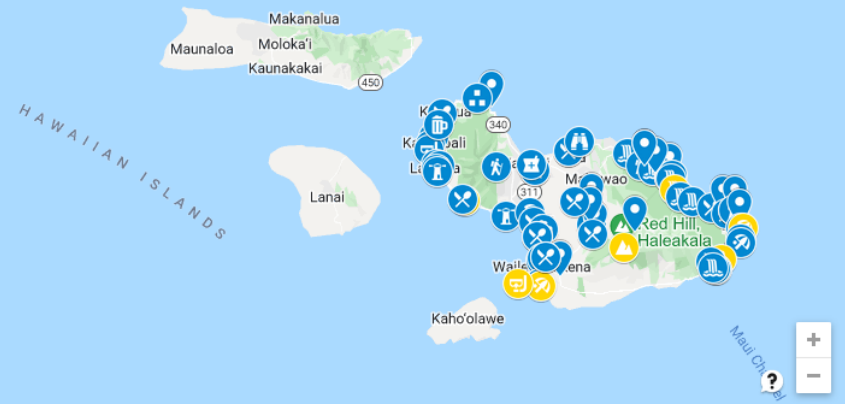
Starred

Trash

- Hawaii
- 437 views
Last edit was seconds ago
- Add layer Share Preview
- Maui
 - Individual styles
 - Kahului Auto Rentals
 - Fork & Salad
 - Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa
 - The Gazebo
 - Koholā Brewery
 - Olivine Pools
 - Īao Valley State Park
 - Nakalele Blowhole
 - Kaanapali Lower Honoapiilan...
 - Black Rock
 - Kaanapali Beach
 - Moku Roots
 - Star Noodle
 - Maui Brewing Co. - Lahaina
 - Waikiki Brewing Company, La...
 - Lahaina Lighthouse
 - Olowalu Beach
 - McGregor Point and Lighthou...
 - sugar beach resort, maui
 - Monsoon India
 - Maui Brewing Co.
 - South Shore Tiki Lounge

Search bar with magnifying glass icon

Map navigation icons: back, forward, pan, location pin, share, print, full screen





Ways to save \$

North Lake, California

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling – Credit Card Points

- Utilize credit card rewards!!!
 - Sign up bonuses
 - 1-5x points
 - Book through their Travel page
- The Points Guy
- Use a credit card that has no foreign transaction fee and no ATM fee when abroad

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling – Accommodations

- Utilize rewards for hotel chains and stay "2 nights get 1 free" type deals
- Call hotel for better rate by booking directly
- Book a private room at a hostel
- Couchsurfing.com for the adventurous, homeexchange.com, become a housesitter

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling - Flights

- Book 6 months out for international flights, 3 months for domestic
- Use Google Flights' alerts, date grid, price graph and price history

Round trip | 1 | Economy





Portland ↔ Dublin DUB | Fri, Apr 14 | Sun, Apr 30

All filters | Stops | Airlines | Bags | Price | Times | Emissions | Connecting airports | Duration

Track prices | Apr 14 - 30 | Any dates | Date grid | Price graph

Best departing flights

Ranked based on price and convenience | Prices include required taxes + fees for 1 adult. Optional charges and [bag fees](#) may apply. | Sort by: ↑↓

	3:15 PM – 4:25 PM^{*1} Delta, Air France · Operated by Skywest DBA Delta...	17 hr 10 min PDX-DUB	2 stops SEA, CDG	593 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	\$782 round trip	▼
	2:15 PM – 12:35 PM^{*1} Delta, KLM · Operated by KLM Cityhopper	14 hr 20 min PDX-DUB	1 stop 2 hr 40 min AMS	556 kg CO ₂ -9% emissions ⓘ	\$786 round trip	▼
	6:00 AM – 8:15 AM^{*1} United, Air Canada · Operated by Skywest DBA Uni...	18 hr 15 min PDX-DUB	3 stops SFO, ORD, YYZ	638 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	\$853 round trip	▼
	1:33 PM – 11:45 AM^{*1} United, Aer Lingus	14 hr 12 min PDX-DUB	1 stop 2 hr 24 min SFO	585 kg CO ₂ Avg emissions ⓘ	\$1,172 round trip	▼

Prices are currently typical for your search | View price history

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling - Flights

- Be sure to check budget airlines who don't advertise on Google Flights/Kayak/Expedia aggregated sites: Southwest, Jetblue, Spirit, Ryanair
- Going.com (*was Scotts Cheap Flights*), price errors and sales right to inbox
- Flight overbooked, flexible schedule? Don't take first offer, negotiate!
- Know your rights. If your flight is cancelled or delayed, are you entitled to reimbursement? Check your airline's policy.
- Book overnight flights or trains to save on lodging
- Check dimensions of checked vs carry on luggage and weight limits before travel date, buy a luggage scale to weigh at home
- If your checked bag is overweight, re-pack heaviest items into your personal item or carry on, these are rarely weighed - Do not pay the fee!!
- Pack snacks for flights, fill empty water bottle after security

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling - Food

- Limit meals to 1 meal at a restaurant per day – saves food budget 25-50%
 - Stay somewhere that includes breakfast (Airbnb, BnB, hotel chain)
 - Stop at a grocery store upon arrival for breakfast and lunch, picnic lunch, lunch on the go
 - Late lunch or happy hour is often less expensive than traditional dinner for your 1 "eat out" meal per day (Dinner in Italy is 10pm!)
 - Many hostels and Airbnbs have kitchens, make use of them
- Let restaurants know when you're celebrating a special occasion
- Buy a bottle of local wine duty free at the airport or grocery store and keep in your room instead of ordering drinks at dinner

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling - Car

- Research if you need a rental car. Is train, subway, bus, walking easier? What's most comfortable for you?
- Book rental car 3 months out, weigh pros/cons of Turo car share
- Confirm if your current car insurance or credit card benefits (if you reserved/paid with that credit card) covers rental car insurance and in which countries. Decline the insurance coverage at the counter. *Does not often cover Turo.
- Research how the Wifi signal is where you're going and decline the rental car GPS if you don't think you'll need it. T-Mobile includes free international data on their basic plans!

Ways to save \$\$ when traveling – More!

- Exchange currency prior to trip, low exchange rate/fee, never exchange at airport or especially at non-bank affiliated ATMs
- Costco, Groupon, TravelZoo travel packages
- If you're a member, take advantage of AAA and AARP benefits
- Book tours and experiences through Airbnb
- Find free walking tours of cities or free self guided audio tour, museums monthly free day
- Allow yourself the luxury of taxis or Uber to and from the airport when you're weighed down with luggage, but otherwise, use public transportation
- Bring laundry sheets and universal drain plug, wash in sink, hang dry (hotel laundry is expensive!)

Show total prices up front [Learn more](#)



Stays

Experiences

Online Experiences

Airbnb your home



Where
Search destinations

Check in
Add dates

Check out
Add dates

Who
Add guests

Search

Search by region



I'm flexible



Europe



Canada



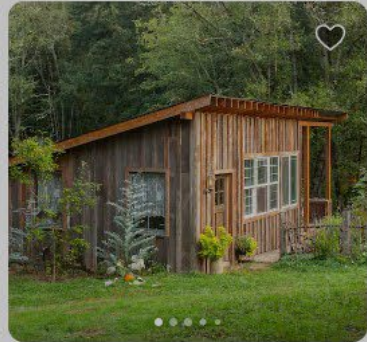
Southeast Asia



Mexico



South America



Damascus, Oregon
26 miles away
Nov 13 – 18
\$149 night

★ 4.98



Mount Hood Village,
51 miles away
Mar 1 – 6
\$469 night



Creative Travel Hacks



Top 5 most creative travel hacks

- For long international flights, order "special meal" and you'll likely get fed first on plane then zzz
- Take advantage of long layovers! Intentionally plan a 5+ hour layover during day time and explore. 2 for 1!
- To pack less, plan an Airbnb stay with W&D every X days
- For long distance flights, beat jetlag with night flights
- Bring a zippered pillowcase for return trip, fill with clothes, this leaves room in luggage for souvenirs

Okay one more...





Before you go...

Kalepa Ridge, Kauai, Hawai'i

Do your research!

- Do souvenir research ahead of time
- Find great restaurants ahead of time
- Download all the apps you will need: WhatsApp, Vibr, rideshare, Airbnb
- Download free audio guides
- Download offline Google Maps or Maps.me
- Download Google Translate and a currency app for offline use

Insurance?

- Travel insurance
 - Do your credit card benefits cover this?
 - If not, World Nomads, etc
- Extra medical insurance
 - Call your health insurance carrier for recommendations
- Personal articles policy for electronics, camera gear, expensive jewelry

Items to remember to pack

- Itinerary
- Luggage locks
- Plug adapters
- Chargers for all electronics
- Portable power bank
- Prescriptions and other medications for common ailments
- Passport, Drivers License + International Drivers License, Insurance cards
- Copies of important documents if lost or stolen

Other things to know

- Keep a packing checklist...
- And snap a quick photo or take a video while packing in case your luggage is lost and not retrieved
- Apple Airtag or similar in luggage and camera bag (4 for \$99)
- TSA Precheck, Global Entry, Clear



Safety

Safety



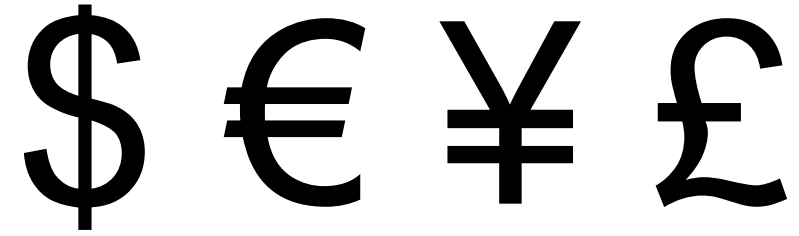
- Share itinerary and photo album w/ family member or friend, check in periodically
- Don't post photos on public social media accounts until you return
- Be aware of your surroundings especially in alleyways and tourist areas
- Wear cross body bags, moneybelt, dummy wallet
- Look for hidden spy cameras in your hotel room and Airbnb (mirrors, alarm clocks, smoke detector, artwork, vents). Bed bugs too!
- Be aware of your belongings sitting on the beach when you're in the water
- Wear a silicone or cheap copy of wedding ring while traveling
- Alarm door stop
- Make sure rental vehicle has local plates

Scams

- Watch your belongings carefully if someone suddenly causes a commotion near you, drops something or spills something on you
- Don't buy souvenirs until you've shopped around a bit and know the value of goods, download an app for quick currency conversion, don't be afraid to negotiate
- Make sure you know the price of a cab ride before getting in the cab, don't accept "the meter is broken," never get into an unlicensed cab, ask the hotel to call a cab for you
- "Help me write a letter"
- "Friendship" bracelet, don't accept anything for free
- The broken camera/phone scam
- The found ring scam
- Fake petition scam



Scams



- Get familiar with the currency and check the change you're given
- Never wire money
- Watch for selfies/photos when you're using an ATM or paying with a debit or credit card
- Strangers offering to sell you a discounted ticket, "accidentally" purchased 2
- Dynamic currency conversion
- Never hand your wallet to anyone, even "tourist police"
- Make sure your hotel or Airbnb has a few good, recent reviews, wary of new ones
- Take video of rental cars, ATVs or motorbikes before you leave the rental lot so you have a record of previous damage, use your own lock for bikes, motorbikes
- Fake wifi hub - never join any unsecured networks



Quick tips for best photos

Lake Tahoe, California



Yosemite NP, California



Yosemite NP, California



Antelope Canyon, Arizona

Quick tips for best photos

- Take a compact, mini tripod/selfie stick with you +
- Utilize your camera or phone's timer
- When taking portraits and self portraits, look for shaded spots outdoors, overcast or after sunset = no shadows
- Offer to take photos for groups of people with their camera and then ask them to take photos of you with your camera if they seem trustworthy
- Patience! Wait until other tourists are out of your photo or use editing apps
- Take photos at main attractions early in the day, when they open or at dinner time when most people have left for the day. Light is best at sunrise and sunset, anyway!
- Hire a pro from Airbnb Experiences or Shoott
- Don't forget timelapses and video help preserve great memories too!







Parthenon, Athens, Greece

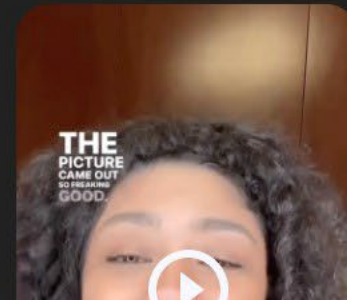
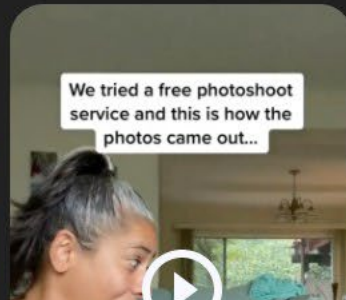
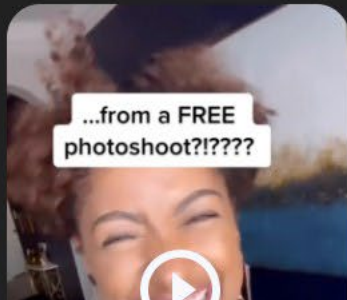
The Shoott Experience

With over 1,300 reviews, Shoott is a trusted service used by over 90,000 people just like you! We're proud to have maintained a 4.9 star rating across Google, Meta and TripAdvisor. Some of our customers have even gone so far to record their experience, so we've compiled them here for you to see for yourself!



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Thanks!!!!



Santa Barbara, California



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