

# Travel

Traveling whilst abroad can really expand your horizons and help you experience a different culture and country in an even more exciting way. In most places (especially Europe) it's very easy to travel with the entire continent connected by trains and cheap airfare (check out <http://www.ryanair.com/en>).

However, you must remember basic safety rules in order to have a good, safe trip.

- Don't leave luggage unattended
- Don't agree to carry on or check any luggage or other items for anyone; if you see unattended luggage please tell the airport, train or bus authorities immediately.
- **Know local laws**
- Don't hitchhike
- Don't travel alone, and always let someone at home let you know of your travel plans, who your companions are, your itinerary, dates of departure and return and your mode of travel.
- Avoid offers of "bargain" accommodations, rides or baggage handling. Official taxi stands are usually right outside airports and stations.
- Learn as much about the country you'll be staying in as possible, so you'll be prepared for your stay, and you'll more comfortable and safer.
- Make a rendezvous point if you and your travel companion get separated.
- Inspect any gifts received in a foreign country before packing.
- When flying, observe and follow weight limits on both carry-on and checked luggage.
- Before leaving for your trip, make sure the items and info you leave behind is protected. Locking your stuff in a safe may be a good idea.
- Notify your bank and credit card companies that you'll be in a different location, especially if you're in a different country.
- Use the hotel/hostel's safe to put things in during the day. You can usually give it to them at the front desk and they should take care of it for you.

Obtaining a pass for the trams/busses/trains in your area will probably be a good idea for you to travel within the city and in cities around it. Buying lots of individual tickets is fine for a weekend trip, but it will probably add up very fast. Don't try to ride public transportation without a pass, they are usually pretty cheap and getting caught without one will earn you a very expensive fine. Getting a bicycle may also be a good idea if you find yourself walking frequently.

Learn the public transportations website(s), both local and long distances so you can find your way to places. Be very careful when buying tickets for long distance travel, make sure you print off extra copies, that it's a legitimate site and that you're not paying more than you should. Making friends with locals (especially the younger people) who can explain the system better is an excellent idea, and may help you save some money!

Hostels are a great, and cheap way to stay overnight in cities. It's fun to associate with many other nationalities and people! A good website is <http://www.hostelworld.com> to read reviews, locations, and prices of hostels where you would like to go. Other options are available such as <http://www.couchsurfing.org> but just be very cautious when doing things like this.

