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10 EASY STEPS FOR PLANNING YOUR NEXT TRIP

I remember when I started planning my first trip around the world. I had no idea what I was doing. When I decided to quit my job and travel the world, I walked into a bookstore and bought *Lonely Planet's Southeast Asia on Shoestring*. It made the trip seem more real, but it didn't prepare me for planning a long world trip. Back then, there weren't really travel blogs, guides, sharing economy websites, and apps like there are today. I was lost. I figured it out as I went, just hoping I didn't miss anything.



Trip planning can be a daunting task. Where do you begin? What's step one? What's step two? What's step three? It's easy to get overwhelmed, especially when you haven't done something like this before.

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HOW TO PLAN YOUR NEXT TRIP

STEP 1: DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

Defining where you want to go sets a goal to work toward. A lot of people talk vaguely about travel. They never say where they are going, just that they **ARE** going. Picking a destination is immensely important, as it gives you a definite goal. It's a lot easier to mentally get behind "I am going to Paris" than "I'm going to Europe" or "I'm going somewhere." Not only will your trip become more concrete for you and easier to commit to, but it will make planning easier as well...because you know what to work towards.



STEP 2: DECIDE THE LENGTH OF YOUR TRIP

How much does it cost to travel? I have no idea without knowing for how long you're going away. You can't figure out how much you need to save if you haven't decided on how long you'll be in your destination. After you say "I'm going to Paris," add "for 10 days."

Now, you have a concrete plan to work from. "I am going to Paris for 10 days" is a trip that you can plan for.

STEP 3: RESEARCH YOUR COSTS

So you know where you're going and how long you'll be there, but to really nail down how much money you need, your next task is to research the costs in your destination at the style of travel you want. Do you want to backpack, or would you rather stay in luxury hotels? How much are hostels, hotels, restaurants, and attractions? Knowing will allow you to estimate how much money you'll need for your trip. Here is how to research costs:

You don't need to do more than that. There's so much information on the web that if you go down the rabbit hole of over planning, you'll get lost and confused by the fire hose of information. Stick to the basics for now.

In our example, if you are going to Paris for 10 days and need \$75 a day (not including your flight), you know you need to save \$750 (though round up to \$800 since it's good to have extra) for your trip. If you were to travel around the world for a year, you'd need \$50 a day.

STEP 4: START SAVING MONEY

Write down all your current expenses so you can determine where you are spending money and how you can cut back. People bleed a lot of money every day through small purchases: that bottle of water, the dollar for that snack, that extra coffee. All of that adds up and creating this breakdown can let you know where you need to cut and save.



STEP 5: RESEARCH YOUR FLIGHT COST

Research how much it is going to cost you for a round trip to your destination and back from South Africa

STEP 6: RESEARCH YOUR ACCOMMODATION COST

Research the cost to stay at the following places within the place or country that you choose.

Hotels

Hotel is a very broad term that encompasses a wide range of budgets. These lodgings provide travelers with specially designed serviced rooms, which have all the required facilities. Apart from catering to individual needs, hotels also cater to the needs and necessities of families.



Bed and Breakfasts

Commonly called the B&Bs, these are ideally small residences, in which hotel-style rooms are provided to the guests. One of the most popular forms of accommodations in the West, these are cheaper than most hotels, safe, and provide a home-like atmosphere. Plus, the guests get an opportunity to interact with the other occupants as well as the owners of the residence.



Motels

A short form of **motor hotels**, motels are lodges that are meant specially for motorists. The rooms are generally connected to each other, and the front doors open right in the parking lot. More often than not, these are privately owned and are usually cheaper than hotels.



Guest Houses

The term 'guest house' is very broad, and encompasses different things in different parts of the world. In some parts, it is taken as being similar to a hostel, B&B, or an inn. In still others, they are considered to be similar to hotels, but are their much inexpensive cousins. In yet some others, a guest house is a private home, converted into a guest accommodation. The owner generally stays within the property, but in a separate area.



Resorts



Located primarily in or near tourist locations, such as beaches, deserts, theme parks, ski areas, etc., resorts cater mainly to people traveling for the purpose of leisure. Resorts generally offer state-of-the-art amenities, apart from numerous recreational facilities such as swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts, ballrooms, and so on. Some resorts are so huge that they tend to cover many acres of land.

Caravanning & Camping

Also known as **RV camping** or **car camping**, it involves carrying all the necessities in one's motor vehicle. It is an admixture of traveling and staying, both at the same time. Some of these vehicles are large enough for a person to sleep, and to offer other household comforts as well. Perhaps the most popular type amongst the youngsters,



this is a DIY accommodation, in which one carries his/her shelter (tent), bedding, and other necessary equipment in the backpack. Camping destinations have come to the forefront these days, mainly owing to their adventure quotient and exotic locations.



Cottages/Villas

For families looking for a peaceful retreat away from the everyday buzz, cottages or villas are among the best options to try out. Much larger than a hotel room and fitting in more or less the same budget, these can accommodate at least four people at a time. These also impart a lot of privacy to the guests by giving them their own kitchen, dining room, bedroom(s), and so on, thus, also making them more cost-effective than hotels.



STEP 7: PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES

Outline the major activities you want to enjoy and how much they cost. Make any last-minute adjustments to your savings so you can ensure you have enough money. This will also help you figure out if you need any reservations for your chosen tours or activities.

Print a map and outline your activities that you would like to do along with the places you would like to see in a structured, timely and ordered way.

STEP 8: PACK!

Time to pack for your trip! Make a suggested packing list to help you take just the right amount of stuff and avoid over packing. While what you pack will depend on where you are going, remember that you don't need to pack everything you own. I usually travel with a 40L bag and then a day bag, and that's probably a great size for pretty much any trip. You don't need a massive 70L bag stuffed to the top for a trip around Europe or Asia. So collect your items and then remove at least 20%. You're going to be lugging this bag around for months, so less is definitely more!

STEP 9: RESEARCH TRAVEL INSURANCE

While a lot of people think, “I’m healthy, I don’t need travel insurance. I won’t get sick,” travel insurance is much more than just medical protection. It covers you when your camera breaks, your flight is cancelled, a family member dies and you have to come home, or if something gets stolen.

Get 3 different quotes on 3 different places

STEP 10: ENJOY YOUR TRIP

Finally write a short paragraph on what you have learned and what you have found interesting during your research time. This can be labelled as your conclusion paragraph that should be visible on the last page of your concept book.

20 Marks will be allocated for each STEP or section of this project, and 20 Marks will be allocated for total neatness of your concept book.