

My Top 20 Travel Tips



1. Purchase travel insurance. This can either be purchased through Cristal Clear Travel or your own credit card company. Make sure you understand and read the entire plan.
2. Do not exchange currency at the airport. You will not get competitive rates there. Research the currency of your destination. Know how much the conversion is. Also know how to get to your money while in a different country by contacting your bank for partner affiliates. Be sure to ask about any and all rates and fees.
3. In order to avoid crowds wake up early and explore. Some of the more popular attractions will not be busy during the early mornings. Try to arrive to take your time and enjoy. You'll also get better pictures with less people walking around.
4. Take a food tour. This is a popular way to find the best local cuisine and to truly live like a local.
5. When out in touristy parts of a city, stay away from restaurants that have lots of pictures and with people outside trying to rush you in. Those restaurants are usually highly priced with low quality meals. Always research the best spots to eat or ask your hotel front desk, concierge, or a local.
6. Find a free walking tour. Most countries offer these. While free, please be aware that you should thank our guide with a tip.
7. Take lots of photos but don't get so consumed that you don't enjoy your trip. Take a photo class before leaving for your trip. Apple offers FREE classes. Learn tips and tricks on how to take photos and then edit later. This way you can take time to enjoy the view.
8. Try something new. You're on vacation. Do something that you wouldn't normally do at home. Whether that's eating a strange meal, being super adventurous, or just living outside of yourself in the moment.
9. Get lost. GPS is cool, but at times, just wander freely and enjoy the people, places, and energy. You'd be surprised what discoveries can be made by just walking around at random.
10. Learn some words in the language of the country you are visiting. No one expects you to be fluent, but an attempt at the local language does far and warms you to the locals.

11. Research your travel destination by watching YouTube videos and reading destination guides.
12. Be aware of how to keep yourself safe while traveling. Some cities are known for petty crimes and theft. Understand how to protect yourself.
13. Plan and map out the most popular attractions. But leave some wiggle room to be flexible with your itinerary. If you have a strict schedule, nine times out of ten you will miss something or be late. Always have a plan B in case Plan A goes awry.
14. Keep both a digital AND paper copy of all travel documentation to include your flight information, hotel accommodations, car rental, etc. If your digital device loses battery life, you will have a paper copy as back up,
15. You do not need EVERY souvenir you see. And if you are shopping for friends & family, compile a list and try to purchase items early on.
16. Google Translate is your friend. This can be used to translate words and the camera function allows you to take a snapshot of an item and have it translated in a matter of seconds. Truly amazing app.
17. Bring washcloths. Most hotels will have the larger sized towels for you to wash your hands or your body. We've learned to bring a few washcloths when traveling.
18. Drink lots of water. You will want to stay hydrated throughout your travel experience. It helps with humid destinations and is always a good idea if you intend to consume alcoholic beverages.
19. Smile and be polite and courteous. This needs no explanation.
20. **Relax • Enjoy • Explore**