

*Martinis and Pearls -*

Where a Lifetime of Memories Begin

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## Best Travel Tips to Help You Travel More!



**Make Travel a Priority** - If you want to travel more, you've got to make it a priority!

Seriously, if you don't have the money yet for travel but you have a wardrobe full of designer clothes or a garage full of expensive toys then you're not clear on your priorities and purpose. Travel must become a budget priority.

**Travel In Your Own Backyard** - If you can't afford to travel overseas, if you don't have the time to go away for more than a few days or the thought of traveling makes you nervous, start off by traveling in your own backyard. You don't have to be rich to travel and it doesn't have to involve long flights. This strategy is one of the most overlooked and cheapest ways of bringing more travel into your life.

**Do the FREE Stuff** - Most of the time the best experiences in life are free, or extremely low cost. There is absolute joy in the simplest of moments, such as swinging in a hammock while watching the sunset over the horizon. Many of the resorts have free activities. Take advantage of them and try new activities.

Other free things:

- Take a walk
- Spend a few hours at the beach
- Go Hiking
- Get up early and watch a magnificent sunrise
- Attend museums or tourist sites on free days or when they are discounted
- Visit a flea market - street fair

**Don't be afraid to go where the Deals are** - Instead of choosing a destination, consider flying to where the deals already are. I am sure you can find new locations you've never been.

### **Don't Travel Without Travel Insurance - Travel insurance is everything!**

Seriously. If you do only one thing before you leave, make it getting travel insurance. I've heard far too many horror stories. Probably the most important trip advice.

I've said this over and over...*"If you can't afford travel insurance, then you can't afford to travel"*.

It's that simple.

No, I don't like paying for it either, but buying travel insurance can be so cheap it's a no-brainer and the peace of mind is priceless!

I would rather spend an extra \$100 or so for our trip and most likely never use the insurance than wipe out my bank account if something did go wrong.

Why do you need travel insurance?

What happens if:

- You need to cancel your trip unexpectedly
- A hurricane damages your destination
- You get sick or injured on your trip
- Your luggage is lost or stolen

**Spend More Time in Fewer Places** - When you're planning a trip, don't try and go everywhere and do everything. Understand that you will never have time to see and do EVERYTHING. Be okay with that. Slow down and take more in. You can return and do more things once you see you love the destination.

**Don't Expect Things to Be Like They Are at Home** - If you want everything like it is at home, then what's the point of going anywhere? Keep an open mind to learning and experiencing new things when you travel. That includes trying new foods, environments, and ways of thinking. There will be moments when other cultures and cities will shock you. Don't judge them. When this happens, sit back and say, *"Isn't that interesting, can't wait to experience more!"* EAT the Local Food - Try everything, even if you have no idea what it is. You won't regret it.

**Talk to the Locals** - One of our best travel tips and what we always do is talk to the locals! They usually have the best travel advice and insider knowledge on what to see, do and eat in their own town. Ask simple questions like:

- Where is the best spot to see the sunrise?
- What are the top three things you would show a friend from out of town?
- What's your favorite place to eat?

**Be Flexible** - One of the best travel tips is to leave room for flexibility in your itinerary. Go with the flow and don't over plan.

Now there are exceptions to everything, if you are on a short trip with limited time and there are popular attractions you want to visit, it pays to book ahead! I do recommend letting me help.

**Blow Your Budget** - Every now and then, don't be afraid to blow your travel budget. Experience things and create lifelong memories. Don't limit yourself to just traveling for the sake of traveling. Go splurge on a famous restaurant, see a big concert, attend a mega sporting event, go on a safari, learn to scuba dive, take that hot air balloon flight, do something incredible you've always wanted to do! Even if you have to go under budget for a few days or a week to compensate for your splurge, it's worth it. Make those lifelong memories.

**Take a class** - Travel is the perfect opportunity to try something new. Take a cooking class in Maryland, a surf lesson in Bali, or fishing lesson in New Zealand. It's a fun way to learn a new skill while pushing yourself out of your comfort zone! Totally a fun thing to experience while vacationing.

**Let your bank know you'll be traveling**- Don't let a card being put on hold for suspicion of fraud disrupt your vacation. Letting your bank know in advance will help lower your chances of your bank suspecting something is wrong.

**Write down the address of your accommodation before you arrive** - What happens if you arrive in a city, go to grab your email confirmation for your accommodation, and your phone and laptop are out of battery? I always make sure I have a hard copy of my room accommodations with name and their address in my purse or wallet for backup. Better safe than sorry.

**Don't put anything in your back pockets!** - It is a known fact that the back pocket is the easiest spot for tourist to lose their cash. Play it safe and use your front pocket or a safe backpack or cross chest purse to be safe. Keep your important documents and cash on you or locked in the safe.

**Color coordinate your outfits** - You want to be able to bring all your favorite clothing with you, even on longer trips. So maximize the amount of outfits by seeing most everything goes with everything else and you double your choices.

**Keep in Mind: The smaller the menu, the better the restaurant** - Usually...That's why street food is so delicious! While you're travelling, look for places that only do a handful of dishes rather than offering 500 options. There's a better chance of stumbling upon an amazing dish when someone only makes that one single thing all day everyday!

**Take more photos of yourself** - There have been so many times I have regretted not having photos of myself on our travels. I am the designated photographer and it seems there are very few of just me when we return. Photos with you in them are special and need to be captured also. They'll mean a lot more when everyone looks back at them. Photos of the beautiful places you visit are great but they're not all that different to the ones everyone else has taken there, too. So make sure to get pictures of you along with the loved ones you are with.

**Drink More Water!!!** - Staying hydrated is important not to have jet lag and not feeling your best during and after vacationing. The sun, the walking or hiking, alcohol, all takes its toll on our bodies and without hydration from plain simple water we have the probability of not feeling our best. So let's avoid and stay hydrated by simply drinking more water.



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