How to Travel on a Student Budget

Transportation Tips:

- Cheap Airlines: Ryan Air (Europe), EasyJet, Wizz Air, Nokiar (Thailand), Air Asia (S.E. Asia), Air Asia X, AirLingus (UK).
  - Book in Advance! (at least a month) and keep checking back with prices!
  - Note: Cheaper Airlines often charge for baggage, so pack light!
  - Don’t neglect to look into flying into one city then out of another! Many times the cheaper airlines charge each leg separately!
  - Travel on weekdays if possible, and be flexible with plans!

- Getting around: Trains are really cheap ways to travel in India and for shorter distances in and around Europe!
  - Make sure to validate your ticket on trains so you don’t get a fine!!

- Eurorail Passes:
  - Prices vary depending upon the length of the pass and the countries you want to see; do your homework regarding how long and to where you want to travel!
  - Sometimes buying individual short-term tickets are cheaper than using a whole day on your Eurorail pass.
  - Even if you have a Eurorail Pass, sometimes you still need to make reservations in order to guarantee yourself a seat on the train!

Accommodations:

- Hostels: Beware of Hostels in certain countries; always look at the online rating systems on booking websites such as hostelworld.com. Save money by staying in multi-dorm hostels. Don’t forget to bring a long, snakey bike lock to keep your items safe!

- Couchsurfing.com: Global Connection Website uniting travelers; has its own validation system of rating. Plan in Advance to give couch-owners notice!

- Staying with friends – email anyone you know living in that country/area that would LOVE to show you how the locals spend their time!

Food and Beverage:

- Many hostels have kitchen accommodations for cooking your own meals or they may offer complimentary breakfast – look for these things when booking a hostel!

- Grocery Shopping: Get picnic items and staples like water to pack along with you!

- Outdoor Markets and Street Vendors – Great way to get to know the local foods and they are often cheaper than restaurants!
● Restaurants: Go to the college student areas! Just like in Chico, they have cheaper food options! Try to avoid restaurants with pictures on the menu, they can be tourist traps!
● Bring your Klean Kanteen everywhere you go! Water costs money in many other countries.

**Sightseeing and attractions:**

● Utilizing student discount cards such as the International Student ID Card (ISIC) and your student ID card from Chico State and the host institution.

**Financing your travels:**

● Scholarships, financial aid for those studying abroad
● Tips on saving money

● **Making money while abroad** - It is generally illegal to work on a student visa abroad, however some countries do allow students to work. Check out the website for the embassy of the host country for details.

● It is often possible (and legal) to find work as a nanny or English tutor while abroad.

● Bank fees for taking money out of the ATM
● Fees for exchanging currency
● Charges for receiving mail in host country

**Avoid getting swindled:**

● Avoid the touristy areas of town when shopping. The prices are generally inflated.

● When haggling with street vendors, always check to make sure your purchased product is, in fact, what you intended to buy before walking away.

● Ask your RD or other local people how much taxi rides should cost for the route you are taking. People working at hostels, airports, restaurants and bus stations are generally reliable and knowledgeable.