



TRAVELING ON A BUDGET

Benjamins, cheddar, moolah, skrilla...however you may refer to money, what most of us have in common is that we will never have enough to say "yes" to every opportunity that comes our way. Hard fact: traveling requires money. Nevertheless, there are many strategies you can adopt to pinch pennies, while still delving into a wonderful adventure abroad. It is important to set a budget, learn tricks to stay within it, and enjoy exploring!



Transportation

Ask alumni from your specific program about the cheapest form of transportation in and around the host country and region. Modes of transportation and their associated costs differ greatly around the world, and the best expert is always a past participant.

In general, it is cheaper to use local transportation such as trams, buses, or the metro, rather than taking taxis or renting cars. If you are able, walking is often the best way to explore a city.

Take overnight buses/trans when you can so you do not have to pay for accommodation.

EuroRail pass—Is it worth it? 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.

Airlines

- Book in advance and take your time researching all of your options
- Cheaper airlines often charge for baggage—pack light
- Consider flying into one city then out of another (open-jaw ticket)—many times the cheaper airlines charge each leg separately

Travel on weekdays if possible, and be flexible with arrival and departure times/days

Exploring on the Cheap

- Cultural and sightseeing tours, can be pricey—instead, check out walking tours, usually hostels and/or guidebooks have information
- Don't worry, be "appy"—in the tech era, your smartphone can be a handy money-saving travel tool (from reviews, currency exchange, flight scanner, safety to accommodation apps)

Use the "Student Card"

Ask for student discounts: Utilize student discount cards such as the International Student ID Card (ISIC), and your student ID card from Chico State and the host institution.

Accommodations

- Always look at the online rating systems on booking websites such as hostelworld.com, Airbnb.com or through guidebooks before booking
- Book as far in advanced as possible
- Reach out to everyone you know, including friends of friends, living in that country/area—they can show you how the locals spend their time
- Couchsurfing.com: Global connection website uniting travelers—has its own validation system of rating (plan in advance to give couch owners notice)
- Pay attention to hostel location, sometimes hostels are not central—you might have to take a taxi
- Bring a lock to hostels, sleep with money bag
- Bring a travel towel and shower shoes

Food & Beverage

- Many hostels have kitchens for cooking your own meals or offer complimentary breakfasts
- Consider going out for coffee or appetizers
- Eat like locals eat. If restaurants are pricey in your host country, eat out at restaurants infrequently—if you do go out to eat, talk to the locals about good/cheap places. In some host countries, eating out is just as cheap as cooking at home.
- Grocery shopping—get picnic items and staples like water to pack along with you
- Outdoor markets and street vendors offer local foods and are often cheaper than restaurants
- Restaurants—go to the college student areas
Try to avoid restaurants with pictures on the menu—they can be tourist traps

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.

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 Resident Director 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.

Notes