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Practical Guide For Every Traveller

Introduction

As a traveller with years of experience and exploring the world as I know it, travel has always been my passion. Now, thankfully, I am also accompanied by my better half on my different travels. When I looked at writing an ebook I was convinced travel will be my focus. As a passionate traveller and someone that looks at this as a journey in life and just not travel, I figured I must share my experiences.

I often document my travels so it can benefit others about how and [where to travel](#). As a globetrotter, I have learnt many things. Most importantly that people are different in different parts of the world but are still somehow the same in a peculiar way. Most of us want to have fun, we want to be with loved ones, we want to be prepared in [some sense for the adventures](#) that come our way.

As a civil engineer, travel got to me as a young graduate. I decided that travel is my pet peeve and I was not only going places I am also going to talk about the experiences. My experiences always started with reading about places and then making my trip to fun and excitement.

People often travel for a change, they do not realize that travel itself is the change. Here is a list of things that I have learnt in my multiple travels. This can be the **101 things that I have learnt** and can help you as you explore your universe.

101 Practical Tips for Every Traveller

Research

Research is the most important part of the process before you begin your journey. No matter where you travel, learning about the place a little could always help. [Many travel websites](#) that can help you with research. You can also lookup [different travel bloggers](#) that are good sources of information.

1. **Where to travel:** When planning a trip, the first thing you want to do is get a sense of where you want to go and what you want to do there. Where you travel opens up the [world](#) and our very own [India](#) to you.
2. **Best time to travel:** There are many places that you can travel to different times of the year. For instance, monsoon is the best time to visit [waterfalls around Chennai](#). While if you want to go on a [bike ride to Leh Ladakh](#) you will need to find out when they open up for tourists. If you want to beat the summer heat, [Hill stations](#) are certainly where you need to go.

3. **Why go there:** Often people travel for different reasons. For instance, [the Dubai shopping festival](#) is the best time to visit Dubai if you love to shop. If you want to party in India then you must check out [Goa's nightlife](#), while you do not underestimate the [amazing Chennai's nightlife](#).
4. **Places to explore:** The world in general, and India in particular, is beautiful. Though you might not have done enough justice to the place no matter how long you spend there. It is important to find the place you would want to visit based on what your interests are. For instance, if you are a history junkie, exploring [Unesco world heritages in Tamilnadu](#) is certainly the kind of place to go to if you live here.
5. **What is popular:** Before you explore any place you must always evaluate the popular places there. Every place in our country and across the world have some of the best things to do. For example, the [mountains of Darjeeling](#), an [adventure to Goa](#), or even the [wondrous Auckland, New Zealand](#), all of these make for beautiful stories.
6. **Unexplored places:** This glorious planet is loaded with untapped destinations that will make you the most intrepid traveller swoon in awe-struck delight. The [remote places](#), [virgin beaches](#), beautiful deserts and [fantastic wildlife](#) all have something to be explored. So look for unexplored places if you love surprises.
7. **What to avoid:** Part of getting your itinerary right is to remember what to avoid. For instance, if you scare easily when in Rajasthan you would want to avoid the [haunted sites](#) there. Make sure you make a list of what you want to do and not.
8. **What to do:** There are different things to do in different places. For example, [Darjeeling is a great choice for leisure activities](#), [Goa is packed with fun](#), while [New Zealand can be best for adventures](#). So choose your destination based on what you want to do.
9. **Where to eat:** Different places around the world has new foods and flavours, so do [explore the best places to eat](#) wherever you may travel.
10. **What to eat:** There are many interesting places to eat and things to eat across [India](#) and around the world. You can find [vegetarian food](#) even when you travel to places like Dubai. However, if you prefer your food for a short trip, there are [foods that you can carry with you](#).
11. **Things to buy:** When you travel to different places you should try and go to their local markets. Remember to see what is special there and be prepared to carry extra bags.
12. **Documents:** Find out what all you need to carry with you. If you are [travelling abroad](#) you will need a passport and a visa. However, even within the country, you

will need at least a photo ID and address proof to get a hotel room. Some places might need travel insurance as well. Make sure you find out what everyone needs and prepare in advance.

- 13. Rules and Restrictions:** Different places sometimes come with their set of restrictions. For instance, alcohol is banned in Gujarat, cars are driven on the right of the road in the USA. Make sure you understand the rules and restrictions before picking the place to travel to, to ensure that you stay on the right side of the law.

Modes of travel

Needless to say, there are many ways to [travel to different places](#). Some of the obvious reasons to pick a certain mode of transport are things like distance, comfort, time, connectivity. All of these are required to decide what form of transport you want to take. Sometimes, you will need a combination of transport as well.

By air

Air travel is considered the fastest way to travel. There are many things to consider when travelling by air. Remember the following:

- 14. Separate baggage:** There are rules that you can carry as Carry-On baggage and Check-In baggage. Remember to travel with the right kind of things in your carry on. Expert [Travel Entrepreneur and websites](#) can tell you what is allowed. So, do not lose your stuff during travel and plan in advance.
- 15. Arrive early:** Lines are typically long. Ensure you arrive early at the airport so that the security checks, check-in baggage, cabin baggage checks, are all done in advance.
- 16. Web Check-in:** Web Check-In is a great option. It pretty much guarantees they are going to try to help you travel. So, if you can, try and do web check-in.

By road

Road rides are something else. It means you are driving or riding down to the place. Typically, these are places that are a little closer or you love to ride or drive. Hire a cab, drive your own or get on your bike. For instance, if you live in Chennai, a [road trip to Pondy](#) could be fun. However, here is a list of things that one must keep in mind.

- 17. Check vehicle:** Before going on a road trip, always take care of it. Get it services so you have fewer problems as you enjoy your trip.
- 18. Confirm route:** Always confirm the best route and the most picturesque route like the one from [Mumbai to Lonavala](#).

19. **Plan stops:** Always look for places that you can stop for food, water, gas and such. Plan the trip so you do not feel lost.
20. **Carry a map:** Phones sometimes do not work on highways. So always carry a map, just in case.

By Train

The train journey is one of those things that you have maybe grown up with. The whistles, the experience, the sound of the train are typically something that most people remember from their childhood. However, here are some tips that you should carry as you travel by train:

21. **Carry food:** Always have backup food. Preferably food that is dry and does not perish easily.
22. **Carry water:** You always need water, as much as you may find it on your journey, sometimes you might not find it when you need it. So backup is a good idea.
23. **Carry spare bed sheets:** As you travel through different terrains, and spend nights on a train. What you would need is sometimes to keep warm. So carry that extra bed sheet.

By water

Travelling by water is an interesting experience. Be it if you are travelling to an island or just [going on a cruise](#) there are many things that you have to look around.

24. **Carry seasickness meds:** If you get seasick or are going for the first time over water, certainly carry seasickness medicine.
25. **Pack swimwear:** You never know when you will get a chance to jump into the water and get a feel of the water. So always pack swimwear.

Places of Travel

Depending on the kind of person you are and the reason you are travelling, there are different places that you can travel to.

26. **Desert:** Traveling to deserts can be a lot of fun. In India, Rajasthan is certainly one of those places that you can travel to.
27. **Mountain:** There are many places that you can go to if you are a mountain person. If you are into trekking [Nepal](#), [Marka Valley](#), are just some of the places. If you are looking to chill and be one with the hills [Ooty](#) is a great option.

28. **Water:** If you are a water person, then beaches never fail you neither do waterfalls. There are many in [Chennai](#), there are Andaman and Nicobar islands, you could also go as far as [Thailand](#) to get your water fix.
29. **Wildlife:** Getting a sense of watching wildlife is something that some people love. There are many [interesting national parks in India](#) that are worth exploring.
30. **Heritage sites:** If you are into history certainly the world and our country are full of it. For instance, there are so many [heritage sites just in Tamil Nadu](#). You can find intriguing places in India and around the world.
31. **Camping:** Being one with nature and being minimalist is a beautiful thing. Camping gives you just that kind of experience. For such experiences, do look up camping spots and options before you start to plan your travel.
32. **Personal:** Sometimes most of these travels that one makes are for personal reasons. Honeymoons are one such reason. For instance, there are amazing places in [India](#), [Las Vegas](#), or even [Langkawi island](#) that can be an extraordinary experience.
33. **Business:** Many people travel for business. Also, for some travel is their business. This includes [travel bloggers](#), photographers, video bloggers and so on. Therefore, a lot of travel happens for business and travelling to make money.

Accommodation

Accommodation boils down to your budget and the kind of experience you need. There are different types of [accommodation available depending on the budget](#). You get an array of options that you can find.

34. **Luxury:** If you have the budget to go for luxury accommodation, you will certainly expect to be pampered. Luxury hotels mostly personalized services, secure storage, [sea view](#), 24/7 room service, personal butler, finest room and furniture and more. So do not settle for less when booking a luxury hotel.
35. **Medium-budget:** Just know that it will not be as luxurious as a luxury hotel. However, they try. You mostly will get the laundry, get good staff if you are lucky and get all the help you need to move around.
36. **Camping:** Camping stays hardly cost anything. You just have to pitch in your tent and be ready for the adventure. However, it won't be as comfortable as a hotel stay, so don't forget your mosquitoes repellent when camping.

37. **Hostel:** Around the world, you have hostels that ensure that you have a place to stay for a formidable price for the time you are there as you explore the place. Choose this option if you are mostly going to be out of the hotel during your travel.

Things You Need

Things to carry are different for different types of travel. But here is a checklist of things that you would typically need on your many travels.

38. **Backpack:** Make your backpack as your friend, because no one will support you as much your backpack will. There is one [thumb rule for choosing backpacks](#), so get the one that makes you feel comfortable with your travel.
39. **Wallet:** One of the best things in your packing is to carry your wallet. Ensure you have enough cash and a card that can be used especially while travelling abroad. There are a few places where cards are not accepted or ATMs are harder to access. So ensure you check.
40. **Papers:** Always have your papers handy. Whether it be international or local travel, to carry papers is always required.
41. **Clothes:** Well, this is a no brainer but you must remember to pack them sensibly. Different places have different weather based on seasons, check that before thinking of how to pack for the place. The last thing you need to dampen your spirits is wearing inappropriate clothes.
42. **Electronics:** Of course these are many things that you will need, however, here is a list of electronics that you might need based on where you are travelling and why.
- a. Phone and charger
 - b. Camera and charger
 - c. Power Bank
 - d. Universal adaptor
 - e. Laptop and charger (if required)
 - f. Hotspot and charger (if required)
 - g. Torchlight and battery (if required)
43. **Sim Card:** Buying a local sim card for international travel will surely be cheaper than using roaming services on your existing number. You can get an international sim card via your telecom provider or even at the airports before travelling.
44. **Back up bags:** Everywhere you go, you will in all likelihood, get new stuff back from there. Carry back up bags. Also, if you go to a place that laundry services are not available, you can certainly use the extra bags.

45. **Food:** [Basic staples food](#) such as biscuits, dry food, and ready-to-eat are always a good option to travel with. Additionally, if you are going on a long trip with no assurance of finding food, certainly carry the extra.
46. **Water:** Again like food, always carry at least a minimum supply of water. Sometimes you might not find bottled water for a while. The last thing you need for travel is to fall sick because you have consumed water that was not safe to drink.
47. **Toiletries:** There are the basics like toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, soap, sanitizer and creams. However, what is in your pouch of toiletries is up to you.
48. **Currency:** It is a must to carry local currency when travelling abroad within set limits. While most places travel cards and travel cheques will help, but local currency will help you pay for food, drinks, taxis and tips.
49. **Credit cards:** If you are thinking of travelling internationally, you should ensure that your credit cards are usable. Confirm with your bank, and get an extension.
50. **Travellers' cheques:** There are many places that you can travel to with traveller's cheques. This helps like money and is exchangeable in the countries you are travelling to. So, plan and get them if required.
51. **Swizz Knife:** If you have one, carry it on your travels. It comes very handily even if you just have to open your baggage after checking it out. So ensure you carry it and make it easily accessible.
52. **Jackets or raincoats:** No matter how much you keep a check on weather conditions, it might still fail you. Even if you are not expecting brisk evenings or rains it is wise to carry a jacket along anywhere you travel.

Attitude while travelling

One of the most important things while travelling is the attitude you carry. You are travelling to someone else's space, so you have to carry your most accommodative attitude. Some things you need are as follows:

53. **Be flexible:** Remember that you are in someone else's place. So be flexible to how things work with them and let it sink in.
54. **Be inclusive:** Being inclusive to different people and different cultures is important. You have to be inclusive to your hosts and their approaches.
55. **Learn common phrases:** When travelling to a place that speaks a different language, you will be better served learning some common phrases. This will help navigate the place better.

56. **Be kind:** Always be kind. This is a general rule, no matter where you are travelling. Kindness is an attitude that always helps.
57. **Be accommodative:** Know that different people function differently. Always be accommodative of other people's needs.
58. **Learn the culture:** You not only travel the world for the sights but sometimes you also travel to learn their culture. So do take the effort to learn their culture, while you enjoy it.
59. **Adapt to their culture:** While you learn a culture, you can also get something that you can take back with you. It could be their food, their practices or just a good idea they bring to the table.
60. **Talk to the locals:** The best thing that you can do when you travel is talks to the locals. They will tell you exactly what is cool and how to explore the place. Most people are kind to tourists.
61. **Experience the local life:** 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do' is an old saying. This is true for all kinds of travels. Know the local laws and life to enjoy the most.

Documents

Different places that one travels to will require a different list of documents. However, here is a list of things that you should consider carrying:

62. **List of things you need:** Making lists has always helped. It gives you a more structured plan for your trips. It gives you a focused approach to your travel and what you need for it.
63. **List of things you need to bring back:** There is always something that you will want to carry back as a souvenir from the different travels. Making a list of that helps you not forget what you need.
64. **Travel documents:** There could be different kinds of documents that might be required during travel.
65. **Medical Insurance:** Some travels will require medical insurance. Make sure you take on the due process to get all the documentation for it.
66. **Travel insurance:** Travel insurance is usually an option. However, it is better to be safe than sorry. So, try and get travel insurance, especially if you are carrying valuables.

67. **Photocopies of documents:** Always carry photocopies of certain documents depending on where you are travelling. Often, this is shown at different places.
68. **ID Proof:** When you want to do something like booking a room you are asked to present an ID proof. So, carry ID proof.
69. **Address proof:** Again, sometimes you might need to carry your address proof to show where you come from. Also, even travelling abroad, your Passport shows as an address and age proof.
70. **List of important phone numbers:** There are many times phones can fail you. You must always have access to important people in your life. So always keep a list of important numbers handy.
71. **Local maps:** Like phones, even sometimes, networks fail you. So always carry a local map. It helps with finding your way in the old way they did it.

Precautions to take

There are certain precautions you must take when [travelling across the nation](#) and the world:

72. **Give a friend or family details:** When you travel, ensure that you give friends or family details about how and where you are travelling. God forbid something happens they will be able to track you.
73. **Share details:** Always mention details like the hotel name and location in advance to avoid any confusion.
74. **Careful about wifi usage:** Most hotels offer using their wifi when in their establishment. Try and avoid using hotel wifi for doing official, and banking transactions.
75. **Keep your bank in the loop:** Let your bank know if you are travelling internationally. Always confirm if your credit or debit card works in that general area. Get the clearance in advance, and know the rules.
76. **Book early:** Booking early on flights and rooms get you better discounts. Always try and plan your trips so you get the best rates.
77. **Confirm prices before travel:** Get a quote, get information on what all the quotes will entail before you travel.
78. **Watch out for peddlers:** Every city has lovely friendly people. However, some try to make a quick buck from travellers. So watch out and avoid them.
79. **Learn the law:** Every city and country have their set of rules. So, ensure you get a basic sense of what works and does not in the space you are travelling to.
80. **Stay safe:** Always remember to stay safe. There are enough people that will advise you about where to go and where not to venture alone. Take their advice seriously.

Smart Choices

Make some smart choices before you begin your journey:

81. **Look for discounts:** Many things tend to be cheaper when you look to booking ahead. Additionally, many sites provide discounts and you should try and take advantage of it.
82. **Look for best choices:** Always compare and look at reviews. It is important to know the kind of issues you might face at a place.
83. **Get a local to help:** If you have a local friend or family person, it is best to ask them to help you with what is good and not.
84. **Learn to bargain:** Bargaining is a skill, getting to learn it will help you in your travels.
85. **Blend with the place:** Do not try to be different. Follow the rules and blend in with the place. When you try to blend in with the place you visit, you have a more pleasurable experience.
86. **Look up experiences before landing there:** Always look up reviews, with enough coverage online, do find all the information.
87. **Read up on the place:** Before you head to a place always read the details of the place. Places to visit, places to eat, places not to visit and more.
88. **Find a friend:** Travel becomes pleasurable when you travel with a friend. So, find a friend as you travel.
89. **Speak to experts or regulars:** If someone has travelled often to a certain place, they tend to have a better idea of what works in that place. So talking to the regulars can certainly enhance your experience.
90. **Take a chance, with precaution:** It is great to take risks or a chance, but do ensure you take it with the precaution required. There is no greatness at putting yourself or your family or friends at risk.
91. **Always ask questions:** Find out. Take the time to find out. When you ask questions you get a lot of information.

Skincare and toiletries

There are many important things that you need to carry with you despite where you go and some of these things come in handy.

92. **Sunscreen and Moisturizer:** Carrying sunscreen and moisturizer is a no brainer. This will protect your skin while you enjoy your stay.
93. **Lip balm:** Certainly another thing to protect you is lip balms especially when you go to a colder place.
94. **Toothbrush and paste and floss:** We have been taught as children to brush every day, so ensure you pack that.

95. **Toilet paper or tissues:** This always comes in handy. There are spills and sometimes you might be faced with situations where there is no water.
96. **Hand Sanitizer:** Do carry this wherever you go. It helps you protect yourself and your family from infections.

Medicines

There are some staple medicines that you will need no matter where you travel.

97. **Special medication:** If you need special medication for anything you are dealing with, try and carry it with you. You may not find the medicine or they could be out of stock. So carry what you need.
98. **Paracetamol:** Carry basic paracetamol. It doesn't matter where you travel to, a weather change could cause your body to fight it.
99. **Painkiller balm and band-aids:** Sprains and cuts are possible as you travel. So do consider balm and band-aid this in your basic medical kit.
100. **Antiseptic liquid:** Depending on the kind of travel you are doing, do carry the antiseptic liquid if you are trying something adventures.
101. **Antacid:** Every travel could lead to different kinds of tasting. So make sure you carry some antacid to help with the stomach coping with new and different food.

Want to become a travel blogger?

Many people make money being a traveller as long as they can write and express their experiences eloquently. If you are looking to be a [travel blogger](#) there are some things that you need to get right. Here are suggestions of 10 things that I did to become a travel blogger myself. These were important learning from my journeys and how I got about it.

Read Lots of Books

Before coming anywhere near travelling on your own or with family ensure that you read a lot. When you read more, you know more. This also means you are better prepared. So always read and learn more about different places. Read from others' experiences. So, take the time to keep reading even as you travel. Do not surrender to just being unnecessarily adventurous while you can be prepared.

Keep writing

Travel blogging is a challenge, so you must love to take up challenges in your life. You should be willing to document your travel history in a way that will inspire others to travel. Your writings should be a source of knowledge for your audience. Blog writing takes credibility to shine, and that comes from resilience. Also, a smart travel blogger understands that words are powerful and are capable of influencing others. So, keep writing and keep at it. Never shy away to express your worldview when you write your copies.

Make the content engaging

At the end of the day, content is king whether you like it or not. If your content is not engaging, people will lose interest. So, invest in trying to learn how to write engaging content. Also, learn how to make the descriptions crisp, efficient and informative. Take time to read comments and reply, because helping others will make your brands authentic.

Be different

Always try and cover different places. Try to create a mailing list for interested travellers and other travel bloggers. Give details that most other bloggers do not typically cover. Do not worry about the length of the blog post, always focus on persuading people. Being different and innovative in your approach will grab people's attention and hold it. Go, have the experiences, gather stories, read about it and ensure that you are adding all kinds of information. Be the best destination for guides that give the best travelling experience.

Be persistent

When the going gets tough the tough get going is an old saying. So keep at the conversation. This means continuously writing, creating friends with other travels. Creating mailing lists. Anything that it takes to keep at it till you succeed. It may not succeed at the beginning, but persistence works at the end of the day. If you keep trying at something and believing that your voice matters, there is every chance that you will succeed.

Create your niche

What are you passionate about? Are you an adventure traveller, a luxury traveller? A person that loves the beaches or a mountain person? As you confirm what you love, your writing will reflect that. Also, it will create a niche for you as "that kind of blogger" when one is looking for this or that. If over a while you certainly have a great idea, focus on that. If you like a certain thing to do, create your niche and write about it. There is every chance that you will get your kind of travellers to follow and share your work.

Host Your Website

Once you are sure of the niche you want to work with, the next step is to host your website with an [authentic domain name](#). Also, go with a reliable web hosting service to host your website. These hosting service providers make sure that all your backend concerns are taken care of along with maintenance and server repairs. A [powerful web hosting](#) company will also make your website accessible for everyone across the web. However, you must do your research to find the best deal for hosting a website.

Invest in digital marketing

Digital Marketing is not something you can avoid these days. Investing in digital marketing does put you on the top of the line. Many people write about their travels. Remember you are not the only one. So, take it seriously. If you want to make some money from your experiences, you have to be ready to invest in it. Give it your time and money to make sure you market it in different platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and so on.

Take photographs and videos seriously

It is an old cliché that ‘an image speaks a thousand words’. So, ensure that you take pictures and videos. Of course, enjoy your travel, but do not forget to capture the beauty of the landscape that you are escaping to. For instance, if you are a food lover, do take a beautiful picture of the food you are trying, keep the camera or video away and then indulge your senses after. But take the time to get the right kind of image. Get yourself an education in how colours, contrasts, photos and videos work. Never hurts to learn a new skill.

Find your passion

There is almost no substitute for passion. How you want to travel will pretty much derive how you want to run your life. If you have the passion then you will do better at your job. It is as simple as that. If you do not find the passion for travel, you will soon lose your interest or just stop doing it with integrity. Make sure you find your passion to discover new places and gather experiences. Also, ensure you have a love for writing about them and recording the places via the lens. If you are not able to back your work, people will also soon lose interest.

Share it on social media

Social media is a powerful tool. You must always interact with your friends on social media. Get your blog title right that reflects your feelings towards travel and is also engaging and catchy in the long run. Your friends and family are your best cheerleaders. Start small. Encourage them to read it and critic it. This is important to keep your audiences engaged. Even if it is people from your inner circle. They could lose interest and not take you seriously if your updates are far and few. So, remind them about what you do on social media. It could be that you may even be invited to write about their ventures if they like what you write.

Travelling around the world for the last few years have been incredible parts of my life. In the journey, I not only explored the world but also explored myself. I learnt humans are amazing and humble anywhere you travel. You get to learn so many things in the process of travelling. You make memories that last forever like Penelope Riley once said -

“It’s not the destination where you end up but the mishaps and memories you create along the way”

So, be an exciting traveller and explore the world!