

WHAT TO DO & HOW TO PLAN

- What To Do

Knowing what you want to do helps when planning your adventure. If you're visiting a particular city/country to see something specific, utilize google and social media to see what else there is to do in the city/country. For example, if you find yourself in Krakow, Poland, there is a salt mine tour in Wieliczka that you can go on with a tour group. You can sign up for this tour and others like it either in Krakow (just find a "travel" shop) or you can book in advance on TripAdvisor or Viator.

Look for in-season activities. A lot of places will have "seasonal" activities that are available only during a specific time of the year. A few examples are Iceland glacier hikes (winter), Switzerland waterfall tours (spring/early summer), visiting Christmas markets (Germany is especially unique, winter only, during the Christmas holidays), and many more. When looking at seasonal activities, keep in mind the type of weather you will be encountering.

If you're visiting Thailand, Australia (during their summer months), Sri Lanka, India, etc. try to find activities that limit sun exposure as the heat can get unbearable the closer to the equator you are (and Australia is above the largest ozone hole, making the sunrays much more deadly). You may want to do the same (or pack lots of extra layers) when visiting places such as Alaska, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, etc. during winter as they can get quite cold, and the snow can be plentiful in these places.

Wherever and whenever you are going on your adventure, just ensure that you are up for the type of activities you want to see/do and make sure you are packing accordingly. Don't want the weight when traveling? Most people forget that when visiting other countries (especially other 1st world countries) that you can buy all the necessities in your destination that you would normally be able to buy in your hometown. Sure, the items may be a different brand, sizing may be a little different, or even food may taste a little weird at first, but it's all the same in the end and the food is an acquired taste that is easy to adapt to (even the "American foods" taste slightly different, but they are actually quite good and still gives you a "taste of home")

- How to Plan

Once you know what you want to do, it is fairly simple to plan. I usually start by making a rough outline/itinerary on a google/Word document to visually see what days exactly I have to make plans and I can fill in the gaps as I reserve or pay for the activities, which gives me an updated visual of what time/days I have left to do my activities.

Learning how you best plan is a great step, but I will always recommend the old fashion visual representation. I create a binder, separate it by days, countries, or cities that I will be in and then I will print everything pertaining to those tabs. I will print flights, car rental confirmations, lodging confirmation, activity tickets (even though they accept mobile tickets nowadays, I still print for security and for the visual representation of the whole trip).