

How to Prepare for a Budget Solo Trip

The cheapest trip is usually the one you plan before you leave.

Trip Details

Destination: _____

Travel dates: _____

Maximum trip budget: \$ _____

30-60 Days Before Your Trip

Destination and safety

- Choose a destination based on the total trip cost.
- Check the current U.S. Department of State travel advisory.
- Review entry requirements for your destination.
- Check your passport validity.
- Confirm whether you need a visa.
- Research several neighborhoods before booking lodging.

Transportation

- Compare flights, buses, trains, and other transportation options.
- Check baggage fees.
- Calculate the cost of getting from the airport to the city.
- Research local transportation options and prices.

Lodging

- Compare hostels.
- Compare guesthouses.
- Compare hotels.
- Check the location, reviews, fees, and cancellation policy for each option.

Money and food

- Check foreign transaction fees on your credit and debit cards.
- Estimate your daily food costs.
- Estimate local transportation costs.
- Set your maximum trip budget.

Activities and insurance

- Research free activities.
- Research low-cost activities.
- Price travel insurance.
- Check whether your insurance includes emergency medical care and evacuation.

Important Reminder

The U.S. Department of State maintains an international travel checklist that covers entry requirements, health, lodging, insurance, travel documents, and other preparation topics.

Review the official checklist before your trip:

travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/planning/checklist.html

Budget Notes

Transportation: \$ _____

Lodging: \$ _____

Food: \$ _____

Activities: \$ _____

Insurance: \$ _____

Other costs: \$ _____

Estimated total: \$ _____

Created for Low Fare Fun

Practical tips for finding cheap airfare and saving money while you travel.