

Close your eyes and imagine the spoils of travel: different cultures, breathtaking vistas, exotic foods. You might picture zooming down a zipline in the Amazon, tasting a classic New York hot dog, or digging into local lore at the history museum next door. Whether you travel near or far in this badge, you'll get the travel savvy to make the most of your adventures now and throughout your life.

**Steps:**

1. Research destinations
2. Look into fun itineraries
3. Find out how to create a budget, including ways to travel inexpensively
4. Gain travel expertise before you go
5. Take your trip—and make a memory

**Purpose:**

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to plan a great trip of at least one night—whether it's around the corner or across the globe.

**Sidebar: Tips Before Takeoff**

- The first four steps are designed to help you build skills for the trip you'll take in the last step. If you've already chosen where you're going—especially if it's longer than the one night minimum for the badge—use the steps to guide you.
- Where you travel depends on many factors: your goals, interests, comfort level, and finances. If a dream vacation isn't possible right now, make it a goal for the future and enjoy a local overnight trip now.
- If you want to earn this badge on a big trip, consider money-earning activities. For great guidelines, visit [www.girlscouts.org/forgirls/travel](http://www.girlscouts.org/forgirls/travel).
- If you plan to earn this badge on a Girl Scout destination, make sure you check out your council's application deadlines.
- Whenever and wherever you travel, bring along at least one trusted adult and make sure your family always knows where you are.

"It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end."  
—Ursula K. Le Guin, American author

**Step 1 Research destination**

Explore the world—both near and far. In this step, you're gathering information for a lifetime of travel adventure. Consider places you can go now, but also let yourself get as exotic, dreamy, and indulgent as you want.



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CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Create an inspiration travel board.** Find images and information for at least 10 destinations, and use them to make an inspiration board. Travel agencies and chambers of commerce are great resources.

OR

**Interview three travel veterans or professionals in the travel industry.** Maybe you have an aunt who raves about the restaurants in a nearby town or a friend who studied in Shanghai. Find out what they enjoyed most (and least) on their adventures, what interested or surprised them, and what tips they have. For More FUN: Turn your interview into a radio show or travel commercial—and share it with your Girl Scout group!

OR

**Get inspiration from movies and books.** Spend a few hours watching movies or documentaries, reading a travel memoir, or checking out the Girl Scouts travel website. Collect ideas for your reference and to share. For More FUN: Host a series of movie screenings or book club conversations with friends. Serve snacks from the areas where the movies or books are set.

### Step 2 Look into fun itineraries

Travel planning means figuring out how you'll get where you want to go, where you'll stay, what you'll eat, and the great places you'll visit (as well as the best ways to get to them). Some people prefer jam-packed days full of activities; others like time for wandering around. Dig into itineraries to see what appeals most to you.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Interview a travel agent or a tour operator.** Ask how they organize itineraries, and get recommendations for at least three destinations that interest you. Take notes for reference, then chat with friends and family about what kind of itinerary you prefer. Tip: Get a professional opinion on how many activities you can comfortably fit into one day and truly have time to enjoy!

OR

**Check out at least two existing itineraries for the same trip.** Books, magazines, websites, tour groups, exchange programs, and study-abroad organizations often create suggested itineraries. Collect two (or more) for a trip of at least two days and one night, and discuss them with friends and family. Which one sounds best to you? Why?

OR

**Make an itinerary for a place you know well.** Figure out how you like to travel by suggesting activities for others to do and see in a place that you know. Make an itinerary for at least two days and one night; then show it to someone else who knows that area, and discuss what choices they'd make.

### **Step 3 Find out how to create a budget including ways to travel inexpensively**

It's during the budgeting process when all the big ideas for a trip take concrete form; money matters require real juggling. The good news is that if you do your research, you'll be surprised by the adventures available on any budget.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Take two itineraries you looked at, and cost them out.** Research transportation, admission, lodging, and food fees, and figure out exactly how much they will cost. What are some ways to cut costs—alternative activities, public transportation, free fun? Rewrite one itinerary to show how you could take a similar trip for half the cost.

OR

**Rewrite an itinerary for a budget-conscious traveler.** Look at an itinerary for a trip abroad created for a luxury traveler. Now find ways to cut costs. Look for budget tips—such as traveling during off-peak seasons and staying at youth hostels (or WAGGGS World Centers overseas!)—and discounts through travel books, magazines, and websites; and talk to seasoned travelers in your network.

OR

**Look into volunteer trips, travel scholarships, and working abroad.** Some organizations pay for your travel in exchange for work in places throughout America and globally. There are travel opportunities through the Girl Scout destinations, the U.S. government, and service organizations. While you may not be able to take advantage of these now, they're great to consider for the future. Gather information about five opportunities for subsidized travel, and discuss them with friends and family.

### **Sidebar: Travel Tips**

If you're unsure how to pack, check out great packing information on the Girl Scout destinations website. When you're on a trip, safety always comes first. Be sure to use the buddy system at all times, and always be alert and aware of your surroundings. Find a



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detailed list of tips on the Girl Scouts website. Traveling abroad? Wear your World Association pin, which is recognized by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 145 countries. TO PACK A DRESS FLAT Fold sleeves and sides of skirt. Then fold at waist line. Creases show less there.

TO PACK SHOES Stuff shoes with small articles. Use bags for shoes.

TO PACK TOILETRIES Use waterproof cases for damp things.

TO PACK SUITCASE Pack heavy articles on bottom. Make smooth layers for folded garments. Needed things on top, if possible.

### Step 4 Gain travel expertise before you go

Depending on where you're going, being a savvy traveler can require new skills—before you go, and on the road. Practice one of these to get the hang of an important piece of travel expertise.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Find out the nitty-gritty of visas and health requirements.** Find out what you need to get a short-term travel visa, a student visa, and a working visa in three countries from different parts of the world. Look into specific vaccination or immunization requirements for those places. For More FUN: Check out a passport application. Even if you don't need one now, it's a good idea to know the requirements.

OR

**Map it out.** Get a map for a big city you're interested in visiting, and pretend you're trying to see five major landmarks in one day. How would you get from the airport to the city—or where could you park a car? Once you're there, will you walk, take a bus or the subway, or drive? Check out schedules, fares, and fees to complete your research.

OR

**Learn at least 10 words or phrases in a new language.** If you're interested in a specific language, learn basic words and phrases, such as names of food; how to say "hello," "good-bye," "please," and "thank you"; numbers; and how to get directions. Or find out how to say "hello" and "good-bye" in 10 different languages. For More FUN: Find a way to use your new language in an activity with younger Girl Scouts, such as in a flag ceremony or a council-sponsored event.

### Sidebar: The Global Travel Toolkit

Available at the Girl Scouts website, this toolkit has everything you need to know about travel. Many tips come in handy whether you're traveling locally, nationally, or



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internationally. From deciding where to go to earning money to dealing with culture shock, this handy kit will help you make your trip smooth, safe, and informed.

### **Sidebar: Pretend You're a Senior in 1963.**

Try this activity from their “Project: Communications—Language.” Go on a “language” group camp weekend. Use your chosen language as the means of communication for the entire time you are away.

Tips for making the most of a great hometown trip

### **Sidebar: Not traveling far?**

That doesn't mean you can't have a totally new experience—and help others while you're doing it. What about charging up your trip with one of these ideas? If you choose one of these, you don't also need to make the memory from step 5 (but of course, you can if you'd like!):

- Collaborate with a local cable company, historical society, museum, library, or chamber of commerce to turn your trip into a tourism operation. Take video that advertises what's great about your town, or post a travel blog for tourists.
- Plan a neighborhood walk or tour for a younger girls. Include interesting places like an ethnic bakery or a toy store—and make it new for you. Ask local merchants to take you behind the scenes!
- Volunteer with an organization that helps people with disabilities to assist a person with special needs on a short day trip. Find out about facilities they may need, such as wheelchair ramps.

### **Step 5 Take your trip and make a memory**

You've explored what you need to know to make a trip a success— now put it into action. Choose your destination and an itinerary for two days' worth of activities that will fit your budget. Document your trip in one of these fun ways so you can share it with friends, family, and fellow Girl Scouts when you get home.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Use the Girl Scout Travel Log.** Available on the Girl Scouts travel website, this is a great resource to frame your trip. It helps you figure out more about yourself, think about what kind of culture you'll encounter (and what culture even means), and it gives you ideas for when you get home. Even if you're not going far, the log can help you make the most of your trip.

OR

**Choose a theme and take photos.** How about a series of pictures of similar objects that you've encountered in various locations: different doors, wheels on various vehicles, anything sporting the color yellow? Or what about how girls live? You'll likely notice some differences—and similarities. Or take along something fun to photograph in different places—a gnome or your favorite SWAP! (You can get your photo essay published on the Girl Scouts website.) For More FUN: Print your photos as postcards, and send them to friends and relatives.

OR

**Capture your trip on video.** When you get home, edit your video into a travel documentary. It might include travel tips for other girls, interviews with people you met, and great shots that share a sense of scenery. For More FUN: Have a screening for other Girl Scouts to inspire them to earn their Traveler badge. Write a travel blog while you're on the road. If you don't have access to a laptop computer to take with you, write your entries in a journal and upload them when you get home. The best part of a blog is that it is a memory book to share.

### Sidebar: Careers to Explore

- Travel writer
- Art historian or curator
- Travel agent
- Tour guide
- Interpreter
- Linguistics professor
- Cultural anthropologist
- Archaeologist
- International business executive
- Diplomat Peace Corps volunteer
- Exchange program coordinator
- Foreign language teacher
- FBI special agent
- Military officer
- Ambassador
- Foreign service officer
- State Department employee
- Economist
- Literary translator



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- Book scout
- Movie location scout
- International education specialist
- Aid worker
- Doctor Politician
- Travel photographer
- Documentary writer

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