

Travel Information

Travels

After your working period, you might be considering travelling around the States. It is always recommended to plan your travels early – most students do it within 1-2 months into your employment period – to plan the cities/states to visit, book flights, hotel/hostel accommodations etc.

Few things to note, however:

- Your travel duration is determined by yourself! Provided you complete your employment and do not run into any trouble with the law :)
- During your Visa period as stated in your passport, you are able to travel to other countries, like Mexico/Canada, if you want to. However, you have to send your DS-2019 to US Sponsor a few weeks before. They have to verify your current status and sign off on your request. You might need to apply for Visa or travel documents as well to enter other countries.
- After your Visa expires, you will still have a 30-day grace period to travel around the States. But you are NOT allowed to travel outside of the States because you CANNOT re-enter the States due to your expired U.S. Visa.

Travel Packages

Some of you may have never made extensive travelling plans to such many places for such a long period before. Therefore, it can be confusing and overwhelming sometimes. Infinity Abroad's appointed travel agency provides a range of low budget ground tour packages designed specifically for youngsters to experience the United States for much less than it normally costs. Their contact details as follow:

Holiday Tours Student Travel Centre

Address: No F-5-1 , Blk F ,Setiawalk, Persiaran Wawasan, 47160 Puchong, Selangor

Tel: +6 03-6286 6019

Email: catherine.tan@holidaytours.com.my / billy.lee@holidaytours.com.my

Website: <http://studenttravel.com.my/scise/>

Flight and Hotel Booking

However, don't be intimidated. This is a very good learning process, and it is also a major experience you will be taking away from your Work and Travel Program. Here are some tips on how to handle your holiday planning:

1. Get a Travel Group

Discuss and get together a travel group. You might have joined this program with your friends. However, some of them might not wish to travel as they might have other plans, such as visiting relatives. Furthermore, you might meet and befriend other fellow WAT participants in the area where you are working.

Travelling as a group has its perks and can lower travel costs significantly, such as hotel bookings, cab fares and so on. Furthermore, it is always fun to explore new places with a bunch of friends!

2. Discuss preferred destinations

The next step is to discuss among yourselves which places you are interested in. Some places of interest might overlap while there might be a few that don't match. Thus, you have to discuss travel possibilities. It is possible that you and your friends meet up at places of common interests and then go in separate ways to some other places.

For example, the entire group might want to visit New York and Las Vegas, but while some are interested to visit the Grand Canyon in Arizona, some might be interested in going to New Orleans. Thus, you guys could go to New York together, split up to visit Arizona and New Orleans separately, and then meet up again in Las Vegas.

However, to optimize time and cost, it is better if you travel in a logical path. Please refer to the map of the United States. For example, you wouldn't want to travel from New York to Arizona, then to Washington DC. It would be faster and more cost effective to travel from New York, to Washington, then to Arizona. You can plan your destinations accordingly, and then arrange with our travel agent for the return flight from your final destination.

3. Figure out logistics

After you have figured out the destinations you wish to visit, the next step would be to plan your mode of transport from one destination to another. You could take the bus or train, but these would be slower, as it can take up to several days to get from one state to another! You have to weigh between time and cost. Flight would almost definitely be the quickest way to get around, but it is also more expensive. Furthermore, taking the interstate bus or the train is also an interesting experience, as you can watch America fly past your window, such as small towns, cities, snow-capped mountains, deserts and so on.

The other transportation issue is getting around at your destined place of travel. Most major cities would have good public transport, such as buses, trains and cabs, which connect local airports, bus and train terminals with the city. It is a good idea to research the city you are about to visit, and get an idea of how to travel around. You can download maps of the internet, or get a hard copy from a tourist kiosk.

4. Hotel and flight booking

After your planning is done, now is the time to book your accommodations, flights and other transport! We recommend that you do this as soon as possible. The earlier you can perform your booking, the cheaper the rates are.

If you are travelling alone, you might want to consider booking hostels like YMCA. This way you will be bunking in dormitories with other fellow travelers. These hostels are much cheaper compared to hotels. However, since you would be staying with people you are not familiar with, you should mind your belongings at all times. On the other hand, if you are travelling in a group, it would be cheaper to stay in hotels as you could split up the cost. Furthermore, you get more privacy.

You can book hotels and flight through their respective websites or online search engines. However, comparing rates from different hotels or flight carriers can be tiresome. Fortunately, however, there are certain websites which can do that for you. Internet-based travel search engines such as Expedia and TripAdvisor can search for the cheapest rates for airline tickets, hotel reservations and car rentals. Furthermore, they have customer-written reviews which enable you to get an idea of the service to expect from hotels, the convenience from the hotel to local attractions, and so on.

5. Contact your airline or travel agent to amend return flight details (if needed)

If you decided to change the date of your return flight, remember to contact your travel agent so they can amend your return flight details. Be reminded that they might require you to deposit an amendment fee, plus any difference in the rates of the flight ticket. You could ask your family and friends back in Malaysia to help you with this.

