



save money while you travel

When you're away from home it's even more important to make your money go further. You don't want to face a mammoth credit card bill when you return nor miss opportunities for fun and enjoyment while you are away. Here are a few ideas to help make your dollar go further while abroad.

staying in touch

If you are not an email user, start practising now because it's a great way to keep in contact with family and friends. There are Internet cafés (and laundries and libraries) the world over. A good idea is to send emails and photos to your own email address so you have a travel diary waiting for you when you get home.

Using 'global roaming' on mobile phones can be expensive but prices vary significantly. It's smarter to use mobiles for text messages (which are cheap) to make arrangements to phone family and friends from a landline at a convenient time.

Alternatively use International Calling cards so you can control how much you spend, or check out the various Internet calling options, some of which are completely free, even for video calls!

get plugged in

If you're taking your mobile phone, laptop, razor or hairdryer, you'll need an adaptor – buy one before you leave home, they're cheaper here.

banking from far away

ATMs are plentiful overseas but don't give you your account balance. Be wary of the transaction costs banks charge for accessing your account overseas. They can be very expensive. Check if your card can be used at overseas ATMs, such as those with the Cirrus, Plus or Maestro symbols. However, note that the fees are also high and can really add up, so making a small number of large withdrawals will save you over many smaller ones (of course, make sure you feel safe if withdrawing or carrying a lot of cash). Use Internet banking to check your account and move money about.

online bookings

Finding well-priced accommodation is also easy in many major foreign cities using discounted travel websites such as www.wotif.com.au or www.hotelclub.com.

check local bargains

Often there are significant price differences between home and overseas. For instance, a camera may be cheaper in Italy but a haircut is a lot more expensive.

take the bus/tram/train/subway

Don't try to drive and park in major cities. If you think driving into Australian cities is difficult and expensive, you should try Europe. The best plan is to drive to the outskirts of the city, park and catch public transport. It's also good fun to mix with the locals.

eat where the locals do

Many prominent eateries are tourist traps. Take a stroll up the back streets and you can often find excellent food at a fraction of the price.

You never know - if you save money as you go, you could afford to extend your holiday for another few days, or even weeks!

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