Digital Nomad

How to Travel the World and Work as a Freelancer

Tomasz Nowak

Tomasz Nowak

Digital Nomad

How to Travel the World and Work as a Freelancer

Table of Contents

Preface

Pulau Perhentian, Malaysia. One of the best place I have ever worked.

Why Should You Read This E-Book

Have you ever wondered how your work would be if you were location-independent? How your life would be if you could design, program or write – while continually traveling the world? Have you wondered how it would feel to work on a beach in the Philippines or the Caribbean islands? I asked myself that question two years ago and have been traveling ever since, while still maintaining my business.

This is a step-by-step guidebook that explains the mechanics behind a work-and-travel lifestyle. If you don't like winter, if you feel exploited, if it seems like your work is pointless and burns you out slowly, I have good news for you.

You can do your job anywhere in the world. You will never again feel burnt out, because every day will be different from the last. You will break the monotony of a 9-to-5 workday. You will feel that you have work-life balance.

You will not get into debt, as many people do in order to get an apartment, new car and IKEA furniture. The work-and-travel lifestyle is a negation of consumerism.

My Story

After working for three years, I started my own business as a web designer. It was profitable enough to allow me to buy a good car, rent a newly built apartment, purchase two computers, new furniture, a home cinema set, and a plasma TV, and to save a large amount of money on top of that. However, at some point I realized my work was pointless, since I have always dreamt about traveling.

I have dreamt about visiting places that I had seen on the TV or travel books. The "stuff" that I surrounded myself with did not make me happy. The world is beautiful and vast and I decided to see it, while still keeping my business.

When I got rid of all my unnecessary "stuff," I packed my backpack and bought a flight ticket. Since that moment I have travelled 34 countries (the number has probably increased as you are reading this!). I have been parachute-jumping, bungee-jumping, paragliding, gliding, downhill riding, riding a quad in an Egyptian desert, snowboarding in Italy for two months, sailing on the Baltic sea in October (extremely stormy!), riding on an elephant, a camel and a donkey. I have trained in muay thai and I have learned how to cook Thai cuisine.

I have driven 2500 kilometers on a scooter in Vietnam, hitchhiked 8000 kilometers in Europe and 2000 in Asia. I have driven

a Tuk Tuk, kayaked in five rivers in Asia, and water-rafted in the Mekong. I have also been invited to a wedding on a Colombian beach, been to Oktoberfest and to a fiesta in Barcelona. I have drunk loads of alcohol and met thousands of interesting people from all over the world.

I am 25 years old.

How to Make the Decision to Freelance and Travel

If you want to live a similar lifestyle, you must remember only one thing:

Don't listen to advice from your family, friends, or workmates on this matter!

Most people live a "safe" life, which is considered the social standard. They go to school, then find a job.

Then they spend their money on unnecessary "stuff." Although most people never admit it, this "stuff" is usually bought to impress someone else. Then people start a family, go on holiday twice a year to relax and take some photos (which are eventually published on Facebook for others to appreciate). Then these people have children and teach them to have the very same attitude and lifestyle.

So when you speak up about your traveling plans, you will hear: Aren't you afraid? How much will it cost? You can't live like that! Wow, you are brave and/or crazy! What happens to your mortgage? We were supposed to buy a car and an apartment! We wanted new curtains...! The crucial factor is to keep in mind the goal that you want to achieve. You could also read this book purely for entertainment – it is up to you.

However, if you decide to choose a similar path to mine, you will need to have 100% focus. Do not tell too many people about your goal. If getting recognition is your main goal, you may only be "talking the talk" instead of "walking the walk."

I have experienced it a few times. While I was traveling in Cambodia, a Danish guy, an Australian guy and I decided to buy a Tuk Tuk (a motorbike transformed into a taxi) and travel throughout Vietnam. The idea was brilliant and original, since most tourists travel around Vietnam by bus or motorbike.

When I told some friends about it, everybody praised the idea. We got Facebook likes and comments, which raised the excitement. Despite not having driven a single kilometer, my fellow travelers were proud, and so was I. However, when it turned out that a Tuk Tuk was too expensive, we gave up on the idea immediately. Perhaps we would have been more motivated to stick with the idea if the "social recognition" reward were given later on.

A radical change in your lifestyle requires a lot of sacrifice. It may make you feel exhausted and uncomfortable. However, when the hard times pass, the reward will be greater than the sacrifice.

Why Break Out of the Rat Race

When traveling through well-developed countries, I always experience the same thing: the pursuit of fake happiness and fulfillment.

Try asking five random people what the meaning of happiness is for them. Some think it's all about love, some think it is connected with well-being or a lack of trouble, and some say it is about family. This fundamental question that everyone asks sounds silly. As human beings, we subconsciously look for happiness every single day – and a large number of people make money out of this constant search. These people sell their product with the promise that it will solve your problems and thus bring happiness and fulfillment. This results in consumerism and happiness being linked together in the minds of many westerners.

I wish that everyone could get rich and famous and have everything they ever dreamed of, so they could find out that imagination is always better than reality, and that wealth is not the answer. For me, traveling is the answer. It is an escape from the pursuit of a better life, wealth, a new car, and IKEA furniture. As a traveler/backpacker, you will live a minimalist life, and the less "stuff" you have in your live, the less trouble you will have.

But first of all, how can you get the money to travel? That is why I wrote this e-book. Freelancing is the kind of career that allows you to explore the world while maintaining your business. It gives you many opportunities, so why not use them? Freelancers are among the small number of people that can do their jobs anywhere in the world. While many backpackers have to go back to a 9-to-5 workday after their gap year is off, you, as a freelancer, can have a never-ending trip. It will be slower, but even more interesting than the average backpacking trip because you are not limited by your vacation time.

Another advantage of traveling is that all your trips, your experiences, and the people you meet will definitely make you more open-minded.

STEP 1

Setting up a Business

How to Transition from a Full-time Job to a Remote Job

If you want to transition away from a full-time job, you need to prepare. The most important question is: is it really possible? In most cases, the answer is – yes. Recent research shows that efficiency increases when someone works remotely. In such cases, your first priority becomes getting things done instead of sitting at a desk from 9 to 5 every day and imitating work. There are many designers, developers, and analysts who waste their time like this every day. Some of them even spend extra time in the toilet in order to "kill time" at work.

WHY IS A REMOTE JOB BETTER THAN A FULL-TIME JOB?

1. **You can choose projects that you like.**
   You and only you decide if you want to take on a project or not. When you work for a web or marketing agency, that decision is shifted over to your boss and you need to complete every project, whether or not you like the kind of work it involves.

2. **You have flexible working hours.**
   When you work remotely, you set your own schedule of working hours and days off. You can decide what time you want to wake up, and you don't feel monitored by your boss.

3. You earn more.

When you work remotely and on your own, you can set your own hourly rates and project fees.

4. You can travel the world and work at the same time.

Freelancers are a small group of people that have the opportunity to travel and maintain their business on the road.

The most important thing when working on your own is to have self-discipline. Since you are not under the direct control of a boss, you can sit in your jammies, hungover, dirty and unshaved. No one will care about this because only the final result of your work is important.

4 STEPS TO TRANSITIONING FROM A FULL-TIME JOB TO A REMOTE JOB

1. Ask your boss to give you one day of remote work.

In order to convince your boss that this new strategy will work, you need to prove to him/her that it's good for your productivity and efficiency. Suggest one day within the work week when you could work from home. Show your boss that you will increase the level of your productivity by switching to a remote worksite.

2. Show better results working from home.

Try your best to be super productive and effective within that one day when you are working from home. You can also slow down a bit when you work in the office. Your boss will notice the positive difference in your productivity when you are away.

3. Move to full-time remote work.

After showing your boss that your work from home is more efficient and ultimately cheaper for him/her in the long run,

negotiate an arrangement where you will be working remotely full-time.

4. Try to build your own business from scratch.
While doing your current work, start to plan and build your own business from scratch. Use your current job as a backup and a source of capital for your start-up.

If you are able to save enough money in a few months, quit your current job and focus on building your own business. You will already have experience from your previous job to help you in starting off on your own, but if you prefer a smoother transition, you may want to consider co-working. It is a combination of remote work from home and work in a rented space with other designers and developers. This setup will give you the chance to socialize at work, which may be difficult while working alone from home.

There are many websites where you can find a good place for co-working with a stable internet connection. You can easily combine co-working with traveling because in most bigger cities there are plenty of people who would be willing to share space with you. Meeting new co-workers in this way also has an added bonus: more inspiration for your work.

Freelance Jobs that Allow You to Work and Travel Around the World

It's not a secret that you cannot do every job remotely. If you, for instance, produce razors or mine coal, it is impossible to work and travel at the same time. But there are plenty of jobs that you can do independently of location. Even if you feel that it's impossible, get

creative and think about how to switch from full-time to freelance, especially if you work for the IT industry.

Jobs that you can do anywhere:

- Web Designer
- UI/UX Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Motion Designer
- Animation Designer
- Web Developer
- Copywriter
- Illustrator
- Usability Tester
- Conversion Rate Optimizer
- SEO Consultant
- Mobile Applications Designer
- Mobile Applications Developer
- Logo Designer
- Video Designer
- Page/Book Designer
- Photographer
- Translator
- Journalist
- Market Strategist
- Email Marketer
- 3D and Flash Animator
- Accountant
- Advertiser
- Administrative Assistant
- Article Writer
- Career Coach
- Virtual Assistant
- Data Entry Provider
- Data Specialist
- Database Developer
- E-book Writer
- Marketing & Lead Generation Campaigner
- Press Release Writer
- Project Manager
- Resume Writer
- Sales Presentation Designer
- Foreign Language Voice Talent
- Technical Support
- Travel Planner Typist
- Video Editor
- Web Content Writer
- Website Translator
- Stock Photographer
- Voice-overs Cartoonist
- Online Legal Advisor
- Game Developer
- Travel Writer
- Online Games Player

The list does not end here. I myself am a web designer in the programming and graphic design industry, and I mainly address this book to those professions. However, many issues around simultaneous working and traveling are independent of the type of work you do. It is important to narrow your focus to a single area that has growth potential. You can't be both an amazing programmer and an amazing graphic designer. Instead of doing five things at once, focus on a single one and become an expert in it.

And finally – even if you can't do any of the professions listed above, there is nothing stopping you from learning something new. It is never too late. Instead of watching TV, browsing through Facebook or otherwise wasting your time, you can dedicate it to learning. It may take a year or more, but by being systematic you can definitely do it. Where there's a will, there's a way.

If you can work remotely from your home, Ithere is no reason why you can't do it elsewhere. When you are traveling, you spend money differently than when you are staying in your hometown, where you usually adopt the lifestyle habits of the people around you.

After you have finished a project, you don't need to take on another project immediately. Instead, you can take a break and spend some time on intense traveling. You earn more even while working less, because you don't buy "stuff" that you would if you lived in a big city – a car, a house, a flat, a washing machine, a fridge, a TV set, etc.

How to Set and Achieve Goals

One of the key things you have to do is set a goal. You have to know what kind of service you want to offer. In other words – who do you want to be? Then, try to think what skills and necessary steps will help you get closer to your goal. Write all of them

down on a piece of paper and mark them off as you achieve them. These are your tasks. Feel free to erase them or add some new ones.

This is what setting and achieving a goal is all about. If you want to ride a bike from London to Tokyo, you first write down the list of necessary steps and items – international driving license, visa, motorbike, tires, maps, bike clothing, oil, toolkit, etc. Then you try to get all the things. If you find one of them problematic, just skip it and move on. You can take care of it later.

For example, if you want to publish a book on your own, as I have, your list of tasks may include the following: writing, editorial work, translation, publishing, marketing. This same process can be applied to many different goals and situations.

Creating a freelance business is similar. First, set a goal and write down everything you need to learn in order to accomplish it.

If you want to be a WordPress programmer, you have to learn XHTML/CSS, WordPress, Responsive Web Design, etc. Once you learn the basics, keep deepening and updating your knowledge, as technologies and platforms are constantly being changed and updated.

Creating a business plan is the next step. As done previously, set your goal and think of what you will need in order to accomplish it. In this case you may need a domain, hosting services, an account on a webpage (e.g. iStockphoto for graphic designers), software. Perhaps something else? Try to estimate the initial investment.

Once you have written everything down, it is much easier to take action because you are conscious of what gets you closer to your goal, and what will be unnecessary. If you are determined enough, any goal can be achieved by simply following the correct steps.

How to Build a Successful Portfolio

If you are planning to travel as a freelancer, you have to create a business from scratch in your home country first. Assuming you don't have a customer portfolio with a customer database, you should be aware that it will be a while before you create a customer base strong enough to support you while you are on the road. If you haven't had any past clients or completed projects, create a few showcase projects to show potential clients.

You can also take part in the freelancer.com or 99designs.com competitions. Whichever option you choose, remember that the most important factor in gaining clients is your ability to deliver, not your education and CV.

If you are employed full-time, I suggest that you create a website with your portfolio. If you can arrange to work on freelance projects in the company where you have already worked, you will have even more flexibility to search for new customers.

6 STEPS TO BUILDING AN ATTRACTIVE PORTFOLIO

1. Choose the right domain name.
Having a good domain name is extremely important. I spent a long time coming up with my own, and finally found one that did not sound too serious. In fact, ColourFreak sounds rather comical. This is the reason why it does not sink beneath the loads of others on the market (or at least that is what I keep telling myself). The domain name should be convincing, easy to memorize and pronounce. It could potentially be your name and surname, but in my case that was out of the question since there are many Tomasz Nowak's in Poland (it is almost like John Smith in the US).

2. Write web copy that converts.

Websites are designed for the content and not the other way around; the copy is not created to simply fill up the cells. One of the most important pieces of content to consider is a successful elevator pitch. This is a short note introducing your company or yourself, which shows your area of expertise. For example: "33 Bananas is a talented graphic design studio based in London. We transform small brands into large businesses." If you need help on this, hire a copywriter.

3. Design and code your website.

Having done the programming and graphic design, you should think carefully about the projects that you would like to include in your portfolio. There are multiple strategies. In my portfolio, I have included a small number of similar projects. Why?
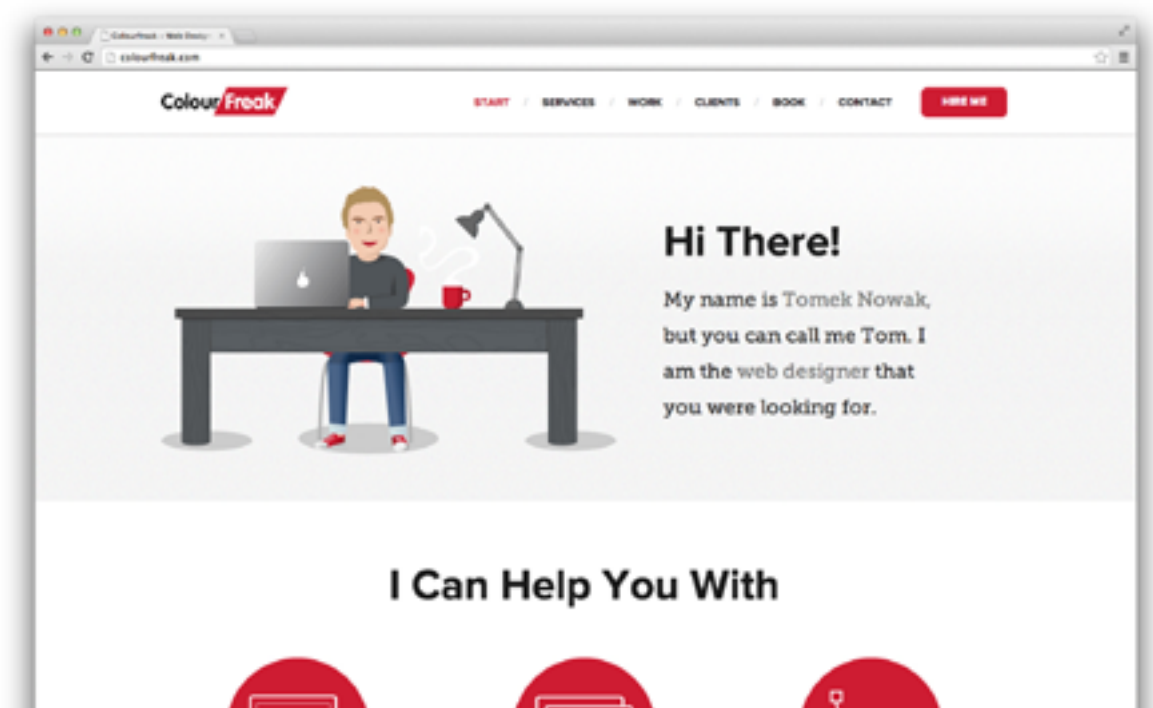
www.colourfreak.com

My Portfolio Page. A little bit outdated right now, perhaps you can see updated under the same link.

Because if a customer is looking for a similar style for their webpage, they can be confident that I will deliver exactly what they need. In other words, such customers are my niche group.

During remote usability testing (I personally use http://www.usertesting.com/, http://www.trymyui.com/), some users complain about my poor project diversity, but that is precisely my goal. If you are looking for red shoes and you have a choice between a huge mall with many random shoes and a single store named Red Shoe Shop, you will always go for the second one.

4. Configure Google Analytics.

Configuring Google Analytics on your webpage is another milestone. It is essential to control which ads are effective, where customers are coming from, and why they stay on the
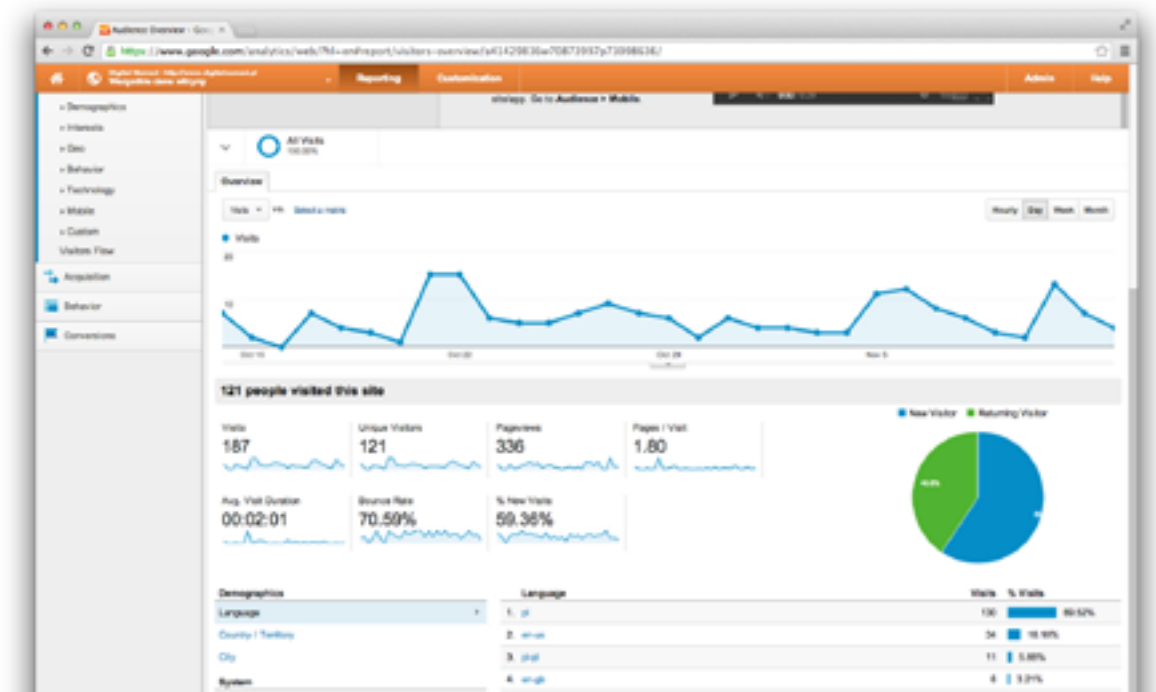
www.google.com/analytics/

Google Analytics lets you measure your advertising ROI as well as track your Flash, video, and social networking sites and applications.

webpage. GA Content Experiments is a key instrument for decision-making. It makes everything measurable, as opposed to just making the assumption that a certain solution will be effective.

5. Build confidence and trust in your business.

Put your name, phone number, Skype and address on your website. Attach your picture too – no matter how ugly you may think you are, it helps to build trust. Be transparent. Another thing that will increase customer confidence is including recommendations from your past clients. If you use pictures and company names (not just fake names with iStock pictures), it will make a difference. Video is another interesting trend. The rule of thumb is that video demands less effort from users than a picture, and a picture demands less than text. Video

According to Jakob Nielsen, The best results come from testing no more than 5 users and running as many small tests as you can afford.

testimonials build trust because they imply that somebody has invested time and put his reputation on the line to give a recommendation for your company.

In addition, video may be used as a narrative about your company's key competence. Video on my page yielded a 20% increase in web conversion.

6. Test your website.

One usability test is 100 times better than nothing, and it can also be done remotely. You will need five users to test out how your website works. If you invest in this step, you will detect 80% of all mistakes. Moreover, you will learn how people see your website and how different it is from what you initially thought.

How to Attract and Retain Clients

Every freelancer should know that your work will always include sales and promotion of your services. Marketing is necessary, as with any other product, but the only difference is that we create the promotion materials ourselves. If you learn a new programming language or new graphic design software, this doesn't necessarily mean that you will earn more money.Higher earnings are tied instead to your reputation and marketing.

Have you ever wondered why large companies charge five times higher for a project, while keeping the level of service at the same (or lower) level as your own? There is a simple answer to that: marketing. You may be an expert in your field, but in order for others to notice and seek your services, you have to possess decent sales skills. Customers will evaluate you based not only on what you deliver, but also on the experience of working with you. This is crucial for any freelancer.

For example, Apple does not manufacture the best laptops on the market; their parameters are usually average compared to competition. Nevertheless, their user experience is extraordinary from start to finish. When you first receive your new Apple laptop, the packaging is nicely designed and convenient to use – you don't have to bite strips of scotch tape off. Then the manual leads you through the setup process and voila – in 3 minutes you can enjoy your MacBook. This simple example shows how the quality of user experience prevails over the quality of the product.

Freelancing is similar. If you want to be more professional, you should analyze the entire customer engagement process from the moment a client enters your webpage until you send the final files. The more enjoyable the process, the more your clients will appreciate you.

Mailing templates and a well-designed inquiry form (where the customer can describe his/her project), and a proper proposal form and contract (in PDF format) is another important factor.

Basecamp is a very useful tool for project management. I recommend that you do not use email as a tool for contacting customers. If you are dealing with a complex project, you may easily get stuck in the emails. Using email looks less professional too. Basecamp is an ideal tool. It doesn't cost much, and is much more enjoyable to use.

Your customers will pay a lot of attention to your availability and response rate. If you get an email from a customer and cannot answer right away, reply by saying that you have received the message and will answer it tomorrow. This way the customer knows you have not been kidnapped, and knows when to expect your response. That is why I recommend using Skype and Basecamp.

If you get frustrated with a client, or he/she demands more work than what was outlined in your initial arrangement, never create a heated conflict. Part of maintaining a professional attitude

is not letting emotions come into play. Always refer to your contract instead – that is why you signed it. Write what you will deliver, when, and how much you will charge for it. If a customer demands additional work, set an hourly rate for extra activities and include this information in the contract.

The best source of promotion is word-of-mouth marketing. This usually happens via LinkedIn. Getting recommended by former customers builds additional trust. You should also be aware that the person giving their recommendation will probably also suggest a price range based on their experience with you.
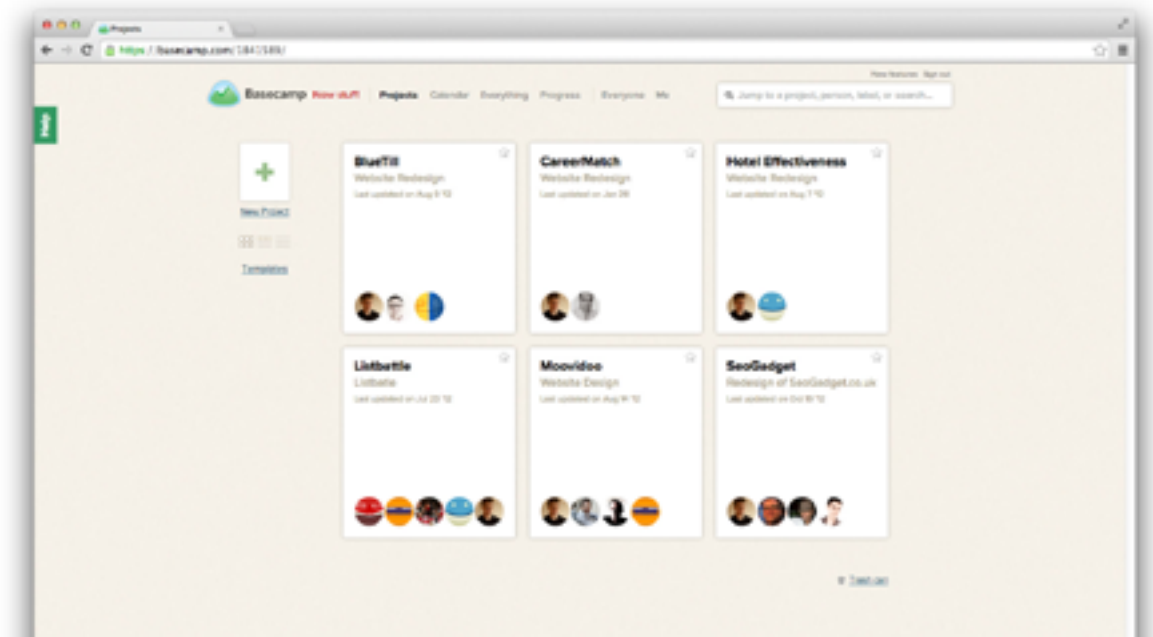

www.basecamp.com

Basecamp is a very useful tool for project management. I recommend that you do not use email as a tool for contacting customers.

STEP 2

Preparing to Travel

Sell Your Stuff

Before I started traveling, I sold most of the "stuff" I possessed – my – car, furniture, home cinema set, computer, plasma TV, fitness equipment, and most of my clothes. I kept a laptop, 2 rucksacks, the rest of my clothes, and a camera. I also moved out of my expensive apartment. When you get rid of almost everything that you have, you feel freedom. You are not tied to anything. When you don't have a car, you don't worry about the fuel level. You don't have to remember to take care of car washing, maintenance, and insurance payment, or to chase the neighbor who scratched your doors. If you are serious about your traveling, you will not need the car anymore (unless you buy one for travel purposes in a destination country!). If you decide to keep the car, it depreciates every day while you are gone.

The same rule applies to other „stuff." You don't need furniture, unless we are talking about a computer mouse tray. While you will obviously lose a level of comfort, keeping too much furniture ties you to it and makes it harder to move to a smaller place. However, if you rent a hotel/hostel room, you will definitely get a desk and a bed.

Selling all your stuff is a very tough decision and most people prefer to stick with plan B – selling only some things and keeping others that they could fall back on. It's hard to separate from the things we are attached to. Yet looking backwards, it was one of the best decisions that I ever made. It made my life simpler.

HOW TO GET RID OF YOUR STUFF

1. **Take inventory.**
   Clean out all of your wardrobes, garage, and attic and decide what you want to keep and what is not necessary. Write everything down on a list. Do not forget to look into your kitchen. Maybe you have some old cups you don't use.

2. **Separate things into those that you can get rid of now**
   and those that you will get rid of later – you have to function somehow until you begin traveling.

3. **Try to sell everything.**
   Don't just assume that something is useless and throw it away. Even an old broken cell phone has value.

4. **Don't be attached to your stuff.**
   It can be painful to part with some of your stuff. Don't be attached to it. It's hard at first, but easier to live without it all. After a while you will realize that nothing has changed.

5. **Make a simple plan.**
   Create a simple plan of how you want to sell your stuff. Maybe you can consider renting something or sharing it with your family.

What Electronic Devices to Take with You

LAPTOP

I probably won't surprise you by saying that you need a laptop. You can't travel with a stationary computer, I tried that once. The

difference was that I packed it in my car, and took it out when I got to the Alps, where I stayed for a month and had no need to move frequently. What computer should you choose? There is no silver bullet here. As a graphic designer, I use Macbook Pro 17". In my opinion, the integration of the iOS with Photoshop is much better than in the case of Windows.

The computer always attracts the attention of thieves, that's why I travel with 2 rucksacks. In the big one I put all of my clothes and some cables, chargers, etc. I have seen luggage being lost, mishandled or stolen at the airports, so I use my second, smaller rucksack, to carry my laptop, a camera and other important things. If I am flying, I take this smaller rucksack on board as hand luggage. The only protective case I have is the waterproof bag where I put my laptop. You should definitely buy one at your local sports store because the greatest enemies of your equipment are sand, water, very low or very high temperatures, and humidity.

Apart from your laptop, you will also need a mouse and a mouse tray. I have often worked on uneven or porous desks,which has been very frustrating. Another thing I have found very useful is an extension cord for 3-4 plugs and an adapter for different plugs (English, European, etc.). I use Skross World Travel Adapter 3, which is quite compact and very efficient. It has a few different electrical outlets, a USB port, Apple-compatible ports and battery level indicator. It is fantastic.

SMARTPHONE

When traveling, I find my smartphone extremely useful. I managed without it for about a year and a half. However, it is useful in stressful situations – when I lose my way, when I can't translate something or am afraid to take out my laptop. Finally, I bought a smartphone for purely business reasons. Technology develops so quickly that if I didn't design mobile webpages, I would probably

1. Small Backpack

2. Vanity Case

3. Big Backack with Clothes

4. Laptop

5. Smartphone

6. Safety Belt with Socuments

7. Mouse + Switch

8. Adapter, Headphones

9. Mini Router, Battery charger

10. WaterProof Bags

be out of business. In the market survive only those who can adapt to changes. Many companies have failed because they did not develop along with technological progress. You have to predict trends and stay on top of them.

If you have a smartphone, it's time for you to install some apps: Google Maps, LinkedIn, Dropbox, Paypal, Mobile Banking, Skype and Translator. There is no point in downloading too many of them because your device will get slower, and battery life will decrease.

You will also need a protective case.

Most of the time I use my smartphone to check emails, use Google Maps, listen to music and write notes. I don't use any traveler apps. Instead, before moving anywhere, I always open wikitravel.org, which is full of useful content. Even when I am offline, the browser displays the very last page.

I also don't carry around any thick books, such as the Lonely Planet guides. They make travelers stop thinking and limit their travel experience to what they have found in the book. To me it seems like a one-man story, and a huge business. Most of the places recommended by LP are a few times more expensive than what is stated in the book. Even if you decide to use them, just keep in mind that there is always some competition 20m away from the recommended spot that is much cheaper and less commercialized. Wikitravel does the job!

One of the big advantages of traveling with a smartphone is that you will have many chances to observe other smartphone users. People living in Western Europe, the US or Australia usually leave their laptops at home and only use their smartphones (usually iPhone). That is a fantastic opportunity for me. I watch them and try to understand the usage patterns or mental models, then I can figure out when they use their smartphone and what they use it for.

Almost anywhere you go, you will see a huge number of tablets and smartphones used daily, which is definitely where the whole internet is heading. There is a decreasing number of desktop users and a steadily increasing number of mobile users.
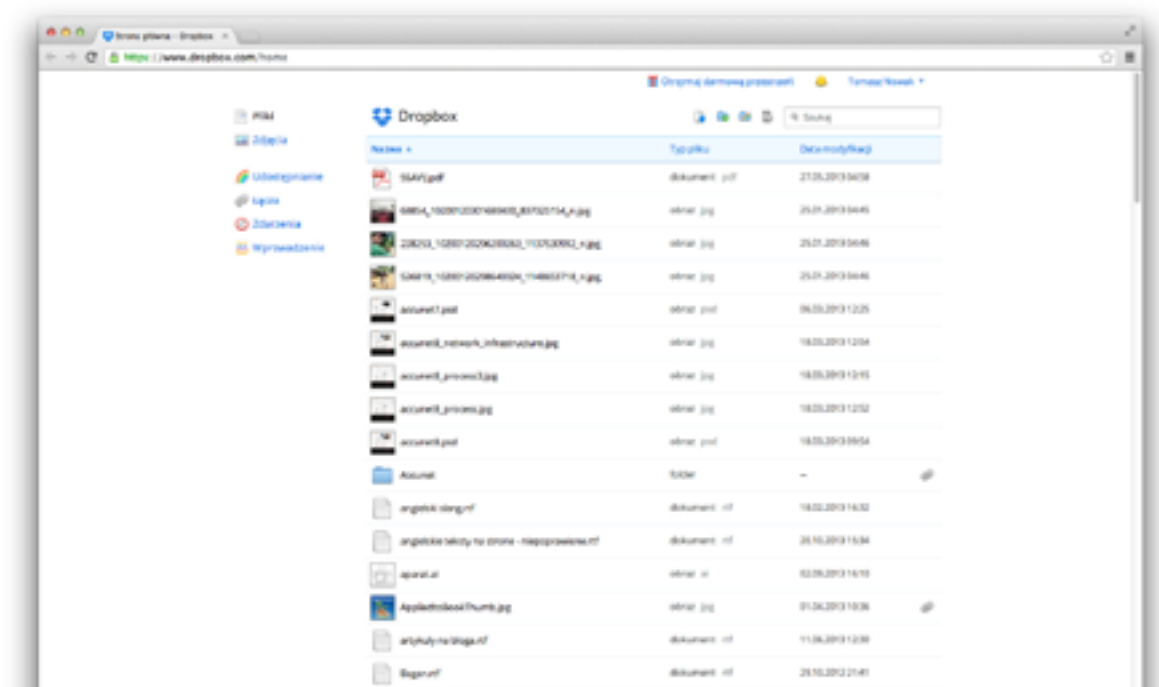
Dropbox is the ideal tool to back up your data.A good flash drive could be helpful, but mine was unfortunately lost. The good thing about Dropbox is that you can't ever lose it.

How to Back up Your Files

Backing up all of your important data is crucial. The risk of having your computer sink, burn, smash or break is 500 times higher than in an office. At home this risk is slightly higher, since we drink coffee or other beverages which put our computer at risk. Then you have to take the regular life span of equipment into account.

I have some simple tactics. I bought a premium Dropbox account, which is extremely helpful for backup activities. I can access it through all of my devices. Every day, I upload all of my progress onto Dropbox. I have everything saved within one hour. Then, if anything happens during the day, I only risk losing that day's portion of work. A good flash drive could be helpful, but mine was unfortunately lost. The good thing about Dropbox is that you can't ever lose it.

There are multiple Dropbox alternatives on the market, but I am using that software and am very satisfied with it. The other options I recommend are iDrive, SugarSync, Carbonite and Mozy. The factors that should be taken into account when choosing are: price, data safety, usability, disk capacity, data format, and sharing options.

What Else to Pack

Here is the list of equipment that I either already had, or bought before traveling.

Large backpack 55L + smaller one 10L. The rule of thumb when choosing a backpack is that regardless of the size, it is almost always full. The smaller bag your bag, the less you carry. The bigger the backpack, the heavier it feels on your back. I recommend a minimalist approach. Do not go for the "I may need this" approach, as extra things take up lots of space, will only be used once or twice, and cost a lot of money.

- 4 T-shirts
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 5 pairs of pants
- 5 pairs of socks
- Long pants
- Sweater
- Elegant shirt
- Light rain jacket
- Flip-flops (no need to buy anything more than basic ones – in the last 5 months, I have had 6 pairs of them)
- Set of water-proof bags
- Small camera (a compact which you can fit into your pocket)
- Hygiene products

- Rope (for laundry)
- Towel (light)
- Marker pen
- 2 bank cards. I left my credit card at home – when traveling, I carry only debit cards. I have my credit card number written down, and the rest of the details needed for payment I just memorized.
- Set of chargers
- Safety belt
- One simple and cheap mobile phone
- Sleeping sack (do not confuse with sleeping bag)
- One light pair of shoes (dark color)
- Head torch.

Any other items you can either buy while traveling or they are unnecessary and you won't use them much anyway.

STEP 3

Travel and Work

How to Combine Traveling and Working

Working and traveling at the same time is not as easy as it may seem. While traveling, you should always be ready for unexpected occurrences. For instance, you may lose the wallet holding all your credit cards. That happened to me when I was in Sihanouk, Cambodia. One night, the wallet where I kept my only debit card was stolen. I wasn't even wearing a T-shirt. Half-naked, I hitch-hiked to the hostel. Then I transferred money via Western Union, which is very expensive – sending $600 cost me $95 of commission.

Fortunately, it was the only time I had to do it, and it was a good opportunity for me to stay in that place longer and work. That's how it's done. Whenever you need to design, write or program anything, you have to stay at a given place until the project is almost done. Then you can carry on traveling, doing small amendments to the project on the road. It definitely differs from the illustration on the cover of this book.

3 Modes of Traveling and Working

Mode 1: A Project
The first one is "sit in one place and work on a project." When I have a project booked, I choose a place to work that has a good internet connection, a desk and a reasonable price. I make sure to tell the hotel staff that I will be working, so that they don't get suspicious. I don't recommend staying in hostels, especially the

ones suggested by the Lonely Planet. First of all, they are expensive. Second, they are filled with interesting people, which makes them a perfect environment for partying. That means distraction.

Staying longer in one place is a good way to learn some of the language, observe the locals thoroughly, try local food, and last but not least – do the things that a random Lonely Planet-guided backpacker does not know about.

Mode 2: Improvements

The second mode is "travel and work at the same time". That means regular travel with a moderate intensity level. For example, you travel by bus to a city where you party, or choose another independent activity.

When you wake up, you go sightseeing and relax a bit. In the evening you make some small amendments in your project, respond to some emails, or read a few articles or industry magazines. If you manage to accomplish these things, you can move on to a different location.

One important thing to keep in mind is the fact that after you finish a project, you will need to send all source files to your client. This will require a good internet connection, so make sure you have this on hand.

Mode 3: Travel

The third mode is full-time travel. During this stage you hardly ever turn on your laptop, only sometimes to check your mailbox or Facebook in the evening.

This is the mode I choose after I have completed a project. And it is my favorite way to travel. Every day you experience something new – new people, breathtaking views, and the full freedom of travel.

During this time I let my customers know that I will be unavailable in the coming days and may not be responding to emails

The third mode is full-time travel. During this stage you hardly ever turn on your laptop, only sometimes to check your mailbox in the evening.

regularly. I set my auto-responder on so that people know I am not ignoring them, and are not worried that something may have happened to me. My auto response is brief – that due to my travels I am unavailable. I can't promise to respond immediately, but I should definitely get back within one week.

I know a couple that has a different tactic. They have their weekly schedule planned in advance, so they work for three days and travel for four days.

This way, no matter how bad their hangovers are, how tired they are, or anything else, they have to wake up and complete some work.

For me, this would be very self-limiting (and sometimes impossible). You can't predict when you will have a good internet connection, and when you will not. There are places on earth where their strategy is impossible because of local conditions.

Additionally, this tactic may negatively impact your ability to deliver the project on time. I cannot imagine needing to travel 500km in a single day by motorbike while thinking about a graphic solution to offer my client the next day. The result of such an approach would be unnecessary stress and a lack of harmony. My proposed 3-mode approach leaves no risk of missing deadlines; you can enjoy traveling 100% and work at a maximum level at the same time.

How to Inform Customers about Your Travels

Most clients consider it risky to assign a project to a traveling person, and I fully understand why they would. My tactic is to tell a customer that I am currently traveling, and will be available every day once the project starts. That means I program myself to sit in one place. That, in turn, assures the customer that there will be no major delays in the project. There are people who hide the fact that they are working and traveling simultaneously, but this is a dishonest and risky tactic.

There are some clients who seem impressed that I am working on the road. These make up about 70% of my customers. The other 30% don't care and simply want the work to be done. I can understand both attitudes. Either way, there is no point bragging about your travels.

You have to be aware that most of your clients are sitting at a desk in a cold country, imagining that you are having the time of

your life on a tropical beach while working on a project that they need completed by a strict deadline.

They do not care about excuses – for instance, that you may have been out of electricity all day long. That is your problem and your responsibility.

Almost all of my clients use two very important criteria to rate my services: work quality and customer experience.

Even if you can provide high quality products, it means nothing if you are unable to deal with clients. The worst thing that you can do is miss a deadline, so make sure that all deadlines you set contain a small buffer in case of delays.

How to Find a Good Place to Work

First, choose a region. It will vary based on your preferences and budget. If you love to snowboard or ski, you do not have to travel around at all. In the winter, just go to the mountains to work and enjoy your passion while remaining stationary. That's what I did this year. I spent one month in Italy, then I moved to Austria and then to Switzerland. I would snowboard in the mornings and work in the evenings. Winter in Europe and North America takes place from October to March; during that same time, it is summer in Asia and Latin America. Why not take advantage of this?

The cost of living depends on the country you are in. Southeast Asia, India and Africa are the cheapest. However, internet availability is quite poor in Africa. Meanwhile, North America, Australia, Japan, Northern Europe and parts of Latin America are the most expensive. When you are choosing a destination and workplace, start by searching online. It may seem difficult to find a good place to work, but this is not always true. Keep in mind that I do not consider Couchsurfing or wooofing appropriate for
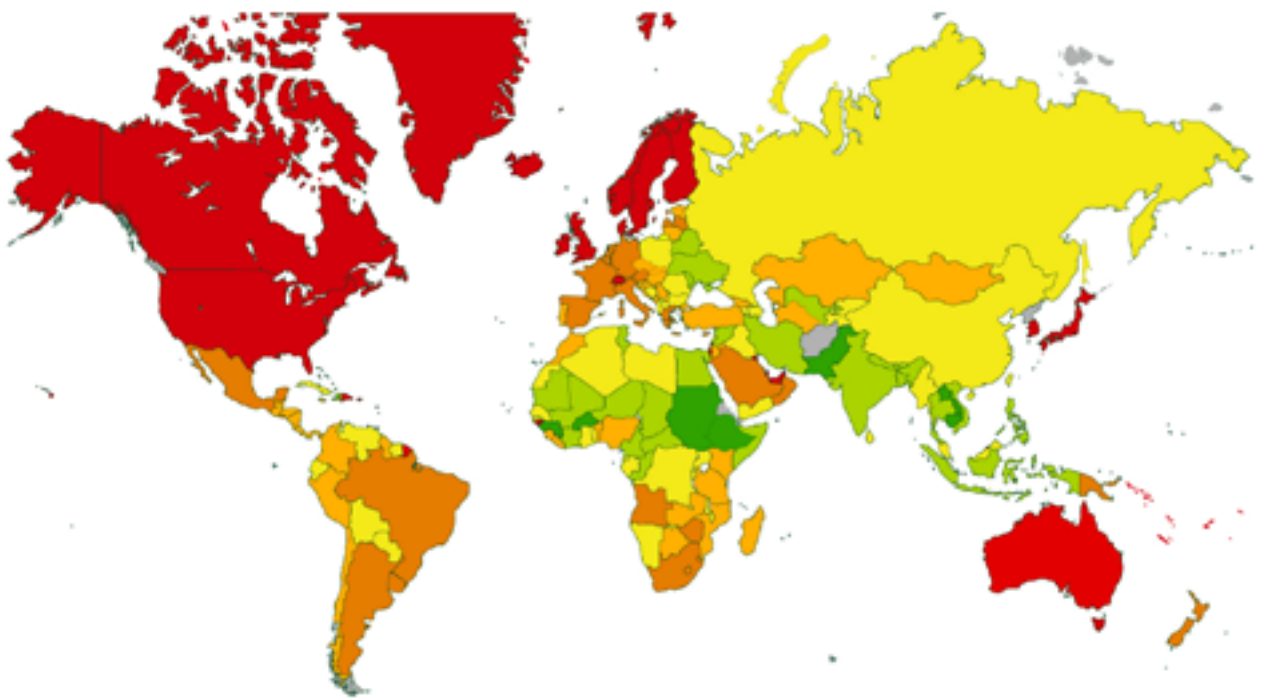
The cost of living mapped based on my own journeys along with stories from other travellers. Red - Expensive, Green - Cheap.

these situations. It is not okay to use someone's hospitality for your work purposes.

I have always been impressed by freelancers who travel and work. In their photos, they are sitting on a beach, drinking a beer with a nice view in the background. I am not saying that this is a hoax, but reality often looks a bit different.

There are a great many climates where it is really hard to work. Your computer doesn't like moisture, heat, frost, or sand. When you are sitting outside with your laptop (let's say on the beach), the sun is shining hard, creating many reflections on your display. If you don't believe me, take your laptop outside your office and try to work for an hour. In a hot climate it is also impossible to work without sweating or without overheating your laptop. On the other hand, if it rains, it will be impossible to work without a roof over your head.

After your first day, you will realize that you need an indoor space with A/C that you can use as a small office.

When you are sitting outside with your laptop (let's say on the beach), the sun is shining hard, creating many reflections on your display.

If you look at the pictures I have uploaded in the album called „Work Spots" on my Facebook page, you will see that most of them were taken at hotel or hostel rooms.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR A GOOD WORKPLACE

1. Lonely Planet

The easiest way to find a good place to work is by buying a Lonely Planet guide. However, most information there is out-of-date. Also, if a place is recommended by LP, its owners typically increase prices. Because of this, such places are crowded and overpriced. Still, you can use LP guides as a good starting point. In a range of 200 meters, you can find many other places to stay that are cheaper, quieter and less crowded.

2. AirBnB.com

On this webpage you can find a decent place for a short-term stay, from a single couch to a fully equipped apartment. Prices are negotiable. Before staying at a person's place, it's worth it to check the WiFi connection. You can often cook at your rented place and will also get to know the local life. Keep in mind that you will be staying at a stranger's house, so it's worth checking their references. You want to feel secure when leaving your equipment at home.

3. Wikitravel.org

Similar to LP – a –huge database of travel information. The prices are much more up-to-date, as users constantly update them. I use Wikitravel a lot.

4. Co-working

This is a great opportunity to work in the same place with other professionals – programmers, graphic designers, etc. There are multiple webpages that allow you to browse cooperation spots, such as www.sharedesk.com. Exchanging experience, gaining new contacts, and simply working with others are big advantages. The latest research shows that cooperation increases your work productivity level.

5. WebWorkTravel Guide

The destination guide for people who work online written by Johannes Volkner. You can find there over 70 budget destinations around the globe with fast internet. More informations on www.webworktravel.com

In order to work remotely, you will need an internet connection. Different countries have different levels of internet speed and availability.
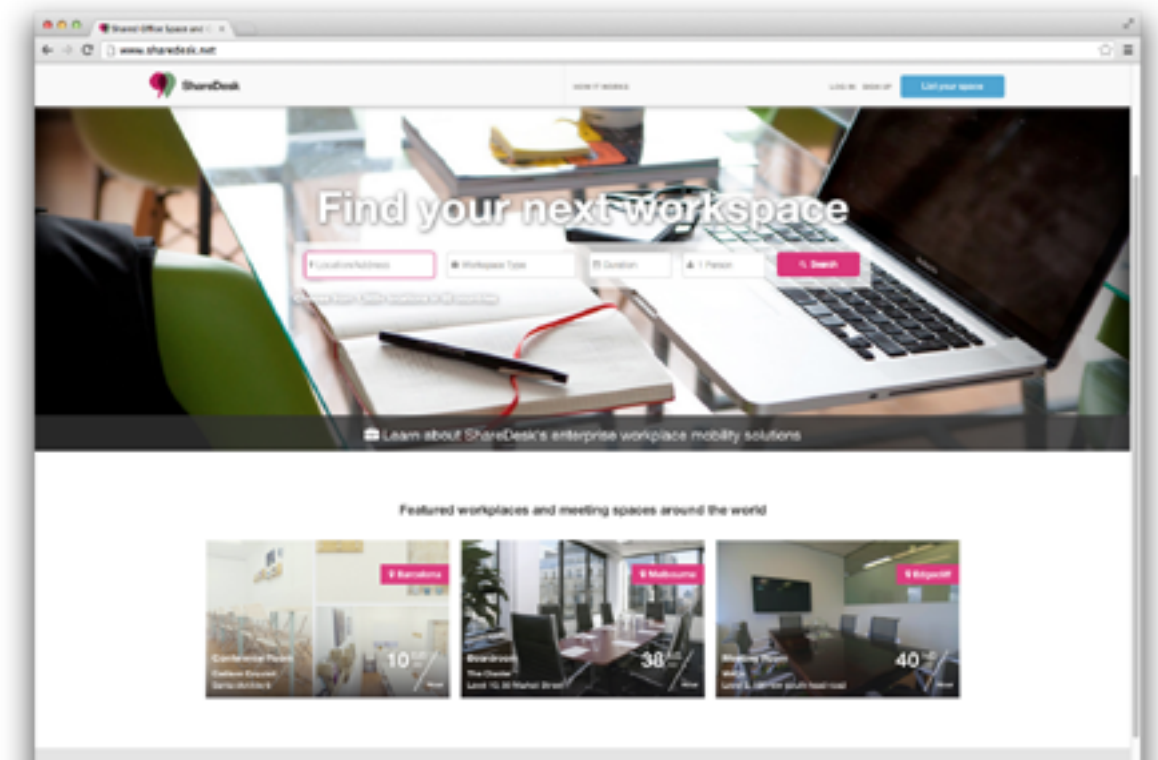
ShareDesk allows you to browse cooperation spots. Exchanging experience, gaining new contacts, and simply working with others are big

In some countries the internet connection is amazing (e.g. South Korea), but there are places where, despite booking an expensive hotel room, you may have to wait 10 minutes for Google Maps to load, or not have electricity for the whole day. This can make working impossible. That is why I always buy a SIM card for each country, which often includes 3G service. I always check the internet speed on my phone before I commit to a room in any given hotel. Also, if I am planning on staying longer to work on a project, I always double-check all the details related to internet connectivity.

There is a smartphone app that indicates connection speed. I am satisfied with anything above 4Mb/s. Sometimes, uploading may become a problem if I need to send some files to a client or run a data backup.

THINGS THAT I CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A GOOD PLACE TO STAY AND WORK

- Where is this place located?
- What is the price of a long-term stay (1 month)?
- How well does the WiFi work? I always say that I will take a room for one day, and if I am satisfied with the internet connection, I can extend my time. If not, I can move to a different place the next day.
- Is there a place for me to work? More specifically, I look for a desk with a comfortable seat and a place for my laptop and mouse tray. Even if a desk surface is not perfect, that is not a big problem. I can always use a mouse tray or a sheet of white paper.
- I never book a room upfront. I need to visit the place first, to see if it will meet my needs.
- The best way to find a good spot within a city is to rent a scooter and ride around for 1-2 hours. This will allow you to check 80% of the spots on your list.

How to Manage Your Expenses while Traveling

The more you move, the more it is going to cost. You will be eating at random places where you cannot fully control the price. Transportation is quite costly as well. When you are in an area for a short time only, the price goes up even more. When you are planning on spending more time in a given place (e.g. to work), it makes sense to do some internet research to find a decent place to stay. Depending on the current travel mode of your choice, you could also choose Couchsurfing or a tent. It also makes sense to

take just half an hour to walk around because you can always find something cheaper.

It is difficult to give a fixed cost for traveling, because it always depends on the country (or city) you are currently in, the means of transportation you are using, and your intensity of partying. At first, I would spend 30% of my budget on partying. Despite the high costs, I would never have met as many interesting people as I did while partying. Now, I have calmed down a lot. This is a great chance to learn some of the local language from native speakers, talk about travel experiences, or even make some new business contacts. For instance, during my travels I met an art director from an Amsterdam-based agency and a programmer from Singapore. We have been cooperating ever since.

Before I started traveling, I saved some money working from home. Although this book is a guide on how to live in tropical countries, which tend to be cheaper, you should still be aware that you will need to reset your lifestyle. At first you will often spend more than you earned in any given month. After a while, you will slow down with your spending. Then you will discover that you have more than you did at the beginning of the month. This usually happens once you get some experience, and stop being deceived by everybody around. By this point, you will probably know how the system of charging tourists a premium for everything works, and you will know how to find cheaper hotels and food. Also, when you gain new professional skills, you can increase your service prices. In addition, if you manage your

You should be aware that you will need to reset your lifestyle

When you are traveling from one tourist place to another, then people treat you like a money machine. When you go off, you feel as a member of their family.

services and marketing by yourself, you may charge extra. When I travel, on average I spend USD $1500 per month. This number could easily be lower if I did not party. I think I could live quite comfortably spending about USD $1000-1500 per month. When I was hitchhiking, my daily spending dropped to about $15 per day. On top of these expenses, however, I need to pay for hosting,

a domain, Dropbox, insurance and taxes every year. But in general, traveling is not as expensive as one would think. Assuming you don't own an apartment, you don't have a spouse or children and you are traveling instead, the expenditures outlined above are the only ones you will have.

I always carry two debit cards with me and leave my credit card in Poland. I have the number written down, but I have memorized the security code and expiration date for safety reasons. I always use only one debit card. The second one is just in case lost the first one. I also never have more than USD $1000 on the debit card. Whenever that drops below $1000, I transfer in more money via Paypal. It is all about safety. If you are hijacked and they demand you pay everything you have, you risk a maximum $1500 loss. It's quite a bit, but still better than losing all of your money. I also keep $100 hidden deep in my backpack. I may never use it, but it could also save me one day.

I am not an ultra-budget tourist, but I don't throw my money away either. When I search for food, I avoid places where I spot the silver-haired heads of Western Europeans. They may serve good food there, but the prices will definitely be higher. Instead, I search for small local spots. I go to a regular restaurant from time to time just to taste how the food differs from the one in the places I usually go to.

The so-called "must-see" places are usually the most disappointing and most expensive. I have had many poor experiences. Forinstance, Ha Long Bay in Vietnam or Neuschwainstein in Germany, or Plitvisckie Jezera in Croatia. They are all on the UNESCO World Heritage List and extremely popular among tourists. Because of this, you pay a premium price for everything there and usually expect something extraordinary, but the experience you get is often poor. I was disappointed with those places and have concluded that the less a person expects, the better their final experience is.

Now let's consider souvenirs, postcards, clothes, gadgets, etc. You should remember that everything that you need is in your rucksack and you don't need anything else. Unless you need some basic products, such as toothpaste or shower gel, try to avoid buying anything. The capacity and weight of your rucksack are limited (especially when you are flying), so there is no need to fill it with unnecessary stuff. If you are planning a longer trip, buying souvenirs doesn't make sense either.

I bought a lamp for my sister because I know she likes lamps. It was quite compact, but it tore apart in my rucksack after three months of traveling. The same happened to the few postcards that I bought. I also bought a Swiss army-style toolkit. It was inexpensive, but I put it into my hand luggage and had to dump it into the trash at the airport. Every time I want to buy anything now, I ask myself, "Can I live for the next month without this thing?" If the answer is yes, I don't buy it. The less stuff I have, the less tied to it I am.

How to Stay Safe and Healthy on the Road

One of the first things you should consider is insuring yourself. If you are worried about your fancy equipment, insure it too. I ignored the equipment insurance, but I did get personal insurance for accidents and expensive medical treatment. It is too much of a hassle to call your insurer for every minor injury you get. Instead, knowing how to avoid getting robbed and how to minimize your losses in that case could be very beneficial. First, read some online reviews of the place where you are going. If you are going to the slums and plan on taking photos with your flashy camera, it is a risky idea.

1. Ask locals.

Talk to locals and ask hotel or hostel owners which areas you should stay away from. You still have to keep in mind that the hotel staff may try to steal from you. Also, it is very important that you take care of your health. While staying in developing countries you may get diarrhea much more easily and quickly. I always buy a few cups of yogurt when I arrive in a new country. These contain a lot of local bacteria, which is ingested by your body.

2. Eat where locals do.

When it comes to old or spoiled food, your intuition comes into play. Search for the spots where locals eat – usually, cheaper and fresher food is being served there. Sometimes street food is much fresher than restaurant dishes because restaurants often rely on defrosted meat.

3. Scan.

Scan your passport, personal ID and driving license. Always carry these scans separately from your original documents. These will be really helpful in case you lose your passport.

4. Always negotiate the price before you enter a taxi.

Learn some basic phrases in the local language: "Good morning," "How much is it?", "Too much, my friend." It always works. The taxi driver assumes you have spent some time in the area or have been there before and he will be more reluctant to deceive you.

5. Get the necessary vaccines.

Vaccinations are also crucial before you travel to particular countries. You will invest your money once and take all the stress of getting infected out of your mind. Even if you spend USD$500 on vaccines, that will only be a one-time pain.

Malaria is still a huge Problem in Central and South Africa.

6. If you are not in Africa, don't take antimalarial pills.

I have not, and I am not planning to take any antimalarial drugs. Sometimes the side effects can be similar to dengue or to malaria. Instead, I buy Jungle Killer, which consists of 95% DEET. Whenever I am close to a jungle or there are lots of mosquitoes, I spray it over my ankles and hands, which is where they usually bite. I have such thick hair on my calves that mosquitos need a map to find the skin. Sometimes it's enough to spray your clothes. DEET may cause skin irritation, so there is no point in overusing it.

How to Learn while Traveling

Developing your skills and knowledge are crucial factors for any freelancer. Surprisingly, I found that I was able to learn and study much more on the road than at home. On a plane, on a bus, on a ferry, or on a train, you have loads of free time. Usually, you have

no internet connection there and cannot do the intense traveling mode at that time. Most backpackers and professional travelers would sleep or listen to music. However, if you are not too exhausted, try to get into the habit of developing yourself.

I like to browse different topics. I try to master my English and improve my German, Spanish, and Russian. I read a lot about internet marketing and design. I like watching TED.com videos or reading ZenHabits articles. I am not sure if I will be able to use this knowledge in the future, but one day I may find it beneficial. I have a natural interest for the world, and I believe that it broadens my horizons.

This approach should come automatically to any person who wants to develop him- or herself. However, you should also do some less productive activities on the road. I can not constantly chase knowledge, education, and new tasks. Therefore, I recommend some chill-out and idleness from time to time.

You will learn a lot while traveling. You meet lots of people from Europe, England, Australia and South America every day. Most of them speak fluent English. Going to a pub may be the best English lesson you can get. Listening, learning and trying are usually much better ways of learning than traditional school exercises. You learn entire phrases used by native speakers, so your English sounds more ""native" too.

How to Fully Enjoy Your Travels

Relax. This is the bottom line of any travel. Way too often, vacation becomes a to-do and must-see. If you want to understand a country, don't visit all the famous landmarks. Choose two or three spots that you find really interesting and study them well. This way you get more time to observe and understand a particular place.

Patience is one of the major lessons I learned while traveling. Keeping distance in stressful situations is another one. You should always be prepared for something unexpected to happen. When it does – relax. Just breathe deeply until the anger leaves and think about alternative solutions. There is no such thing as no way out. It may be costly, but there is always a solution.

Smile. It may be artificial, but smile! This little trick helps in most situations. Have you heard of "laugh tracks"? In TV series, you often hear an overwhelming laugh from an invisible audience when an actor tells a joke. This is supposed to make the viewers laugh too. Humans live in herds, so we often mimic the actions of other members of our group.

Don't hurry. Do you always need to have a task to do or be going to a must-see landmark? Find a peaceful place or cafe and stop for a second. Do not plan in advance and do not memorize anything. Be a present observer. Turn all your electronic gadgets off and you will love those moments.

I definitely recommend checking the current news in a country you are planning to travel to. Once, I almost traveled into a war zone. I wanted to visit Borneo during the riots between the Filipino and Malaysian armies. It could have been hard to fall asleep with bullets whistling through the air!

How to Stay in Shape while Traveling

While traveling, sightseeing and partying, you should definitely do some sports activities. The benefits are clear. You will be healthier, smoke less (if you do), breathe better – all key factors for your well-being. You will get slimmer and get a flood of endorphins in your brain. The type of exercise doesn't matter.

I think that the best and the healthiest way to hit the town is walking. It's a good exercise for your circulatory system and is

If you are looking for outdoor exercise, running will be perfect for you.

not as involved as running or cycling. You cannot take your free weights with you, so use your body to do exercise: push-ups, pull-ups, skips, shadow boxing, etc.

If you are looking for outdoor exercise, running will be perfect for you. You don't need professional shoes, clothes or gadgets – this is not why people run. Stay minimalist. When you get back to your place and take a shower, you mind will be much fresher. It's far better for you than a cigarette and coffee.

Don't Buy Souvenirs, Spend All Your Cash

My rule is to not buy any souvenirs at all, unless I have a flight the next day, I have some cash on hand, and can buy something that will help my family learn about the places I have visited – coffee,

local alcohol, etc. never buy textiles, sculptures, or similar souvenirs. They will only fill your apartment and you will never feel any sentiment to them. However, this is obviously up to you. If you want such souvenirs, go and get them, but your backpack will just get heavier.

On a related note, spend all the coins you have ASAP. At some point, you will have problems with them. You will leave a country and discover that you kept loads of worthless coins, but you can't dump money. So you just keep carrying a kilogram of coins around the world. I recommend spending all of them at once or exchanging the money with a person flying in. If it's not a million dollars, trash it or give it to a homeless person.

The Pictures and Facebook Trap

Interestingly, I have seen many people start traveling with posting on Facebook as their main purpose. A few times, I have even found myself doing the same.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

Before going on the road, we post a status with the name of our destination. Then we check in at a remote place – 500 likes! Then we take a camera and focus on taking beautiful photos to upload to our account as soon as possible. We end up running around the earth in search of appreciation and recognition.

Everyone likes it. However, it is worth taking some time to reflect and to keep you common sense. Why am I doing what I am doing? Why am I acting this way? I don't criticize anyone for taking photos. Some people take great pleasure in doing this, and it may even be the main purpose of their travel. I like taking photos

myself. However, when the weather is bad or the light is poor, I keep my camera in my backpack.

I prefer videos to photos. Because of this, I bought a camera with an HD video option. Videos are much more interesting than photos after a trip. I upload most of my little masterpieces to Dropbox, so that I have them even if my camera gets stolen or damaged. Dropbox is also a fantastic way to share videos with my family and friends. You can share the link to a specific folder and they can browse through the files. In the past, I have burned the video files on CDs or uploaded them onto a flash drive. But the CDs got scratched and I lost the flash drive.

Do not spend a fortune on professional photo gear unless you are a professional photographer. I have a small camera that can capture lots of colors. It fits in my pocket, I can take it anywhere, and it only cost USD$360. If someone steals it or I lose it, I will just buy a new one. The iPhone HDR camera creates lots of noise, so I recommend additional gear.

Every day in the evening I upload all new photos onto my hard drive. Then they are automatically transferred to my Dropbox. It may take some time, but at least you have a safe backup in the cloud. If your connection is slow, just leave your computer turned on for the night, and that's it!

Is It Worth Traveling on Your Own

I have been asked many times if I don't feel lonely while traveling alone. I always reply, "No!" I enjoy my company. I have traveled in several different social settings.

First, I have traveled in a huge group, which ends up dividing into smaller ones if there is no leader. But the group usually divides anyway, even if it does have a leader, because some people want to do A, and others – B.

I have also tried traveling with 4 people, in which case it is also easy to divide and form two couples. When there are 3 people traveling, one always gets hurt because two people want to go to spot A, and the third one wants to go to spot B, so there is always a majority and a minority.

Traveling in a couple is cool, but you have to find a person with similar interests, dynamics and attitude. It always seems that the longer people stay together, the more frustrated one of them gets.

I love traveling alone because it gives me a sense of freedom. You don't need to wait for anybody, you don't get frustrated, and you always do what you want. No need to compromise. If I feel like doing something, I go for it. Traveling in a group isolates you as well. Traveling couples meet 3-4 times fewer people than I have met so far traveling alone. Groups don't meet as many locals as a single traveler. Alone does not mean lonely.

Traveling is addictive. Monotony kills. Two years of traveling have definitely changed me

Most importantly, traveling alone is far more useful for your personal development than traveling with another person. You are not influenced by the mental framework of a person that you are traveling with. The more time you spend with another person, the more similar you both become to each other. The more time you spend with a variety of people, the broader and more open-minded you become.

If I want to talk to somebody, I do. Meeting new people comes naturally to me. I have met many extremely interesting people who shared some travel experiences with me. I have travelled for a few days with them. We may share a room and travel the whole country, but I still appreciate my freedom and rarely adjust my plans for anybody.

On your travels you will also meet some narrow-minded people. One of the most judgmental questions you get is, "Where do you come from?" It sounds innocent, but people use stereotypes and former experiences with a given nation to form an instant opinion of you. I appreciate people who have an open mind when approaching others. If you're ok – you're ok. If you are frustrating, then I don't want to talk to you anymore. This attitude is free of any stereotypes or judgments about a given nation.

Am I afraid? What should I be afraid of? We are afraid of things we don't know or haven't experienced, but these fears are unsubstantiated – we simply imagine negative things which usually turn out to be untrue. Whenever a particular thing happens, it is not terrifying anymore.

People live surrounded by the imagined projections of everything around them. You also have an image of yourself. Who are you? How do other people perceive you? Are you visually attractive? That's where your complexes come from. After reading this book, you have an idea about me, too. And it is what you want it to be.
When I tell people about my travels, many get excited. I don't think I have achieved anything amazing. I had a goal and sacrificed a lot to achieve it. I may have a different reference point.

I am truly impressed by some great travelers – Tony Halik for instance. He travelled from Patagonia to Alaska in a jeep. I am going to do it myself.

I am also impressed by Wojciech Dabrowski for completing 10 lonely expeditions around the world and visiting 235 countries.

There are lots of anonymous people who have achieved similar things. I met a German who drove an old VW Beetle from Germany to Thailand with his wife and two little children! I also met a French man who cycled throughout China.

I particularly like stories about people who traveled in an atypical way: kayaking, cycling, motorbiking, Tuk Tuk or walking. I understand them because they are crazy in the same way I am. They inspire me. If you have an idea for unconventional travel, send me an email (my address is at the end of the book).

My Plans

I don't know when my travels will come to an end. I don't know how long my life will be. So far, I have stayed safe. It will definitely be difficult for me to go back to a stationary life. Traveling is addictive. Monotony kills. Two years of traveling have definitely changed me. My country hasn't changed, but my way of thinking definitely has – I believe, for the better I. At some point, one should not count their life by the years, but by the number of experiences. I feel like I have already run a marathon.

I am writing this book after my nine-month stay in Asia. The next trip I am planning is to South America. I have visited Colombia and Venezuela so far and now I want to travel the whole continent from Argentina to Panama. Then I will decide what to do next. I don't know how I will travel. In a jeep? On a motorbike? By bus? Hitch-hiking?

You may suffer while carrying a rucksack. But when you look back on this experience, you will be able to say that it is the best thing you have done in your life.

Your First Step to Achieving Your Goal

As you can see, working and traveling at the same time is not easy. There will be many unpredictable events along the way. If you still don't know where to begin, I recommend starting with small steps. Go for a one-month vacation to see if working remotely works for you. If you don't find it problematic – pack all your things in a rucksack and try to relocate.

It's like a test version of your new lifestyle. If you like it, you may never come back to your current one. If you struggle, don't give up. Analyze your mistakes, get up and fight. I will be glad to give you some online tips. You will find my contact details in the next chapter.

Good luck!

Author

Tomasz Nowak

A freelancer and backpacker, Tomek has worked as a web design-
er for six years. During the last two of these years, he has com-
bined his job with his passion for traveling. He doesn't have a full
formal education, a sports car, an expensive apartment, or IKEA
furniture. Instead, he sold everything but a backpack and a few
gadgets necessary for working with location independence from
any location. So far, he has visited and freelanced in 34 countries.
and personally an ambitious and friendly person.

Helpful Resources:

1. **My Website and Blog – www.digitalnomadebook.com**

2. **My Personal Portfolio – www.colourfreak.com**

3. **Digital Nomad on Facebook**

Please leave a comment

If you liked what you read please go to www.digitalnomadebook.
com and leave me a comment. In order to make this, please enter
this code in "code input": A8B8C8 - I want to avoid a spam mes-
sages.

Please Donate this project

Please keep in mind that this book is a non profit project. Feel free to share that with your friends and download for free. However, if you really like the idea behind this and want me to continue, please donate. In order do do that, please go to www.digitalnomadebook.com and click "Free Download" button. You will find Paypal "Donate" button over there. Thank you!