Conni Biesalski is the blogger behind A Life of Blue, where she writes about unconventional lifestyles and how to be a world nomad.

She has travelled to 40 countries and lived in seven.

Currently, she is finishing up a year in Berlin, Germany. April 2012 onwards, you can find her underwater among the fish in Indonesia again for a while, where she will be working the high season as a dive instructor while keeping up her freedom business.

Her home is the world.
Introduction

So you want to be a World Nomad. Awesome. Seriously, I would like to congratulate you. I’m proud of you.

Just picking up this little ebook means you are one of my favorite people.

This is not a hacking guide. I don’t want to make the long-term nomadic life seem easy to attain and keep up. If it was easy and all cookies and flowers, everyone would do it. Makes sense, ey?

Thus, I’m not going to sugarcoat it for you. It’s not for many people, probably most out there - I’m guessing 95 percent of the total population are either not interested or just couldn’t see themselves do it. That’s cool. You have got to really want it, you know. But if you do and you take my advice onboard, then you are going to be one of the very few people around the world who will have a life that’s worth living, every day. You will have life-altering experiences on a regular experience. You won’t be dreaming your dreams, you will be living them.

This ebook and my world nomad philosophy is not just about travel. It’s about a way of life. It’s how you see the world. It’s about taking control and living the life that you want to live, not the life that you think you’re supposed to live.

You ready for this?

Fantastic. Let’s go and vagabond the world. Forever.

Yours in Liberation,

P.S. Blue words are hyperlinks and send you directly to the linked website. So click away!
“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

Henry Miller
Nomad = someone with no fixed residence and moves from place to place; an individual who roams about and stays in places only temporarily.

A world nomad is the modern-day version of the traditional nomad, who moved more seasonally in search for food and livestock and in a more defined territory. The territory of the modern nomad is the world. Thanks to technological advancements, a world nomad can call the entire world his home. A world nomad’s existence is independent of location. He is not tied to one place and can live anywhere he pleases.

A world nomad keeps moving, but is not a traveller, who only moves about for a limited amount of time. He is someone who travels but also stays in places, to live and/or work there - but only for a temporary while, a few weeks to possibly even a year. But he always knows in the back of his mind that he’ll be moving on.

There is not end date to his nomadic existence, no planned out schedule for the places he wants to go.

Since the age of 15, I lived the life of a world nomad. I am now 28. Apart from three years studying in one place at university, I kept moving. I lived, studied and worked in seven different countries (USA, UK, Spain, Austria, Indonesia, Australia and Thailand) and visited 40 on various short and long-term travels. I love this life and I can’t imagine having a different one.

Come along on the following pages as I tell you what I know about the life nomadic…
The Fundamentals: Advice for Aspiring World Nomads
Unless you are one of the lucky few who have money coming out of their ears, you’re gonna have a to save up some moolah before you get to start living your world nomad’s life.

My best advice, when you’re working an anti-sabbatical job or saving up for your nomad’s life, is to live frugally. It allows you to spend less than you earn, and use the difference to keep moving and travelling.

Living frugally means restraining yourself in the shopping department, living on and consuming little, looking for cheap when you do spend money, restraining from going out and partying too much.

It helps to take on a simplistic or even minimalist mindset – which can make a frugal life much more enjoyable.

To me, being able to travel or move to a new place, is more important than buying a new pair of jeans or a better TV (oops, I don’t even own one).

“Your nomadic lifestyle has to be your number one priority - before shopping and eating out like crazy.”
Owing Little

This comes with living frugally, but the reason behind is quite straightforward: Travel demands simplicity.

You can’t pack your whole life in a bag, it just doesn’t work.

As a nomad, you will own little, because you just can’t always take everything with you to the next place.

I find, the best things in life aren’t things anyway, but experiences, people and nature.

Owning little enables you to move anywhere anytime. It’s pure freedom and it feels awesome - trust me.

The reason why moving has been so easy for me is because I have never owned much and hardly owned anything but the essentials in the last three years. I can pack up in 15 minutes and be ready to move to another continent in 30.

“A nomad’s life demands simplicity. But it gives an abundance of experiences, people and nature.”
Shoestring Travel

Life as a nomad usually doesn’t take place in five star hotels. But rather in hostels, cheap guesthouses or very affordable shared accommodation.

Transport doesn’t mean (rental) cars, but local transport options (trains and buses).

Simple travel usually takes you much closer to local people and their culture, which is a much more authentic experience anyway. It will also let you meet other budget travellers and nomads, which is half the fun of living this lifestyle!

Shoestring travel lets you travel further and for longer - and that’s what you want, isn’t it?

Example: If you have $5000 saved up, and you aim to spend only between $600 to $1000 a month, you can live for anywhere between five and eight months without having to work. I think that sounds pretty sweet.

“The aim is to make your money last you as long as possible without having to work.”
I’ve met some long-term nomadic couples or families, but most real vagabonds were by themselves (which is not to say it’s not possible, it shows that it actually is).

This doesn’t mean alone forever and always, as friends and lovers can be made anywhere, but you have got to want to do your own thing – possibly on your own.

If you always depend on your partner or friends for orientation and making decisions, you will get stuck, procrastinate and not live the real freedom a nomadic lifestyle usually entails.

The perfect combo would to find friends or lovers who are exactly on the same page as you, with the same plans. But I have found this to be one of the hardest challenges as a world nomad. It’s possible for sure, but a lot of luck is involved!

In any other case, don’t let anyone or anything hold you back. It takes courage to do your own thing, but it’s highly rewarding. You will be immensely proud of yourself, trust me.

“Doing your own thing is highly rewarding!”
Proactivity

Take your life in your own hands, by taking control of your own circumstances.

Nothing will happen if you wait around passively for fate to come around to do it for you.

Fate won’t come.

So if you want to live, study or work abroad long-term, go and start organising your plan.

Executing it might be a lot of work, but no one is going to do it for you.

Do the research, make a plan and take action.

Becoming and being a nomad takes effort. But man, is it worth it!

“Get your ass up and be proactive. No one is going to live an awesome life for you but yourself!”
Taking Risks Professionally

The decision to leave everything behind at home (job, possessions, family, friends…) means you’re willing to take risks.

Going to live in a place you have never been is a risk.

Taking on a new job you’ve never done is a risk.

But over time, risk-taking will get easier.

And then, one day, you take them and don’t even notice anymore. That’s when you’ve become a professional risk taker.

Risks don’t always have to be scary. The more you take, the more they can get addictive, because you may want to take bigger and bigger risks. That’s awesome, just don’t hurt yourself ;)

“If you risk nothing, then you risk everything.”

-Geena Davis
Untethering and Letting Go

Every time you move on or change places as a nomad you have to let go. Especially of people. But also of places.

Even living in one place for a few weeks or months can make it hard to leave.

But you will have to, because you’re a nomad. So you better get used to saying goodbyes.

““Letting go doesn’t mean giving up. It means moving on.””
The Joy of Moving

I believe the nomadic lifestyle is romantisized a lot without thinking about the implications.

Being a nomad really actually means moving regularly. It can be anywhere from a few weeks to several months or a year, but the move is always in sight and on the radar.

So if packing up and leaving to go and start in a new place is not your thing, don’t bother.

I love moving. I love leaving a place and I love arriving in a new place. I love changes and making new starts. The nomadic life is just right for me. Is it right for you?

“I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel’s sake. The great affair is to move.”

- Robert Louis Stevenson
Unless you’re a rich kid, you have to make a living as a nomad.

There are countless ways to work and travel around the world. Not all of them are fancy or glamorous. Unless, of course, you can keep your head above water being a digital nomad. More on this later.

But when the purpose is the goal, they suffice, because they provide travel cash.

I went to university and hold an M.A., but I’ve worked in factories and shitty bars in exchange for incredible trips around the world.

Other travellers clean hostel rooms or wash dishes. Sometimes you just have to bite through and think about the job afterlife.

Sometimes, that’s the price you pay for living abroad.

“Some jobs you hate, some jobs you love. But money is money.”
Nomadic Jobs

If doing shit-kicking jobs is not for you at all, you can look a bit further and check out nomadic jobs.

Nomadic jobs are jobs that make a nomadic life possible by being able to work in many different countries around the world.

I decided to become a scuba dive instructor because I knew it would let me live in the most beautiful places doing what I love and make a living off it. Perfect!

Other nomadic jobs include ESL teacher, tour guide, cruise ship or yacht crew, travel writer, international school teacher and various instructing jobs (ski/snowboard, surfing, yoga etc.).

See the chapter later in this ebook for a comprehensive list of jobs for nomads. There are many and I’m sure there is one that you might fancy as well!

“Nomadic jobs let you live and work around the world.”
Working for Little or for Free

Chances of vagabonds ever becoming millionaires are pretty slim.

Many travel jobs, especially in the non-western world, won’t pay you big bucks. But that’s not what you should be in for anyway.

Some jobs might not even pay you in money but only in exchange for room and board (see WWOOFing) – but hey, that’s something (including an experience)!

Don’t expect to get paid Western wages in countries like Laos or Costa Rica. You might get lucky, but chances are slim.

Working for little or for free lets you extend your time abroad and enables you to have some kickass experiences. That’s worth so much more than your bloody MasterCard could ever give you. Experiences are priceless.

“Work in exchange for amazing experiences.”
A lot of times, being a nomad means living with the uncertainty when money will hit the bank again.

So when you’re working an anti-sabbatical job (a job taken with the sole intention of staying only for a limited period of time in order to save up for travelling again), make sure to stash away as much extra money as you can.

Figure out how much you need to live on and the rest goes into savings.

Even in the preparation phase to becoming a nomad, you will have to stock up on funds before taking off, so that’s good practice – get used to it!

I don’t mind saving instead of spending, as I know that my benefits are long-term and come with awesome places, interesting people and new experiences.

“How money talks, but all it ever says is good-bye.”
A nomad keeps moving. So you’re not going to keep a ‘nomadic job’ for long, that would be against the point of being a nomad!

In all honesty, I have never maintained a steady job. The sole intention for the jobs I ever took was to fund my nomadic life, another trip, another flight.

Before taking on a job, I always knew it was going to be a short-term solution for a limited period of time and quitting day loomed from day one. No extras.

It means that job hunts become a rather frequent hobby. Not saving money for your pension or whatever life investment could be an issue for some folks.

It’s a risk you take as a nomad. Or you’re responsible enough and make arrangements for that. Your call.

“I used to be scared of uncertainty; now I get a high out of it.”

-Jensen Ackles

Financial Insecurity and Job Uncertainty
Western money goes a lot further in countries like Indonesia or Honduras than, say, in Finland or Australia.

I can easily live on $500 in Asia, but trying to do the same in Europe or North America would be a big challenge.

This means that you can stretch out the non-working phases if you chose the right countries.

Although travelling to developing countries might be more challenging (caused by e.g. cultural differences and tropical diseases), the rewards are usually incredible.

I’m a big fan of, for example, Indonesia, Nicaragua and India and I have contracted Dengue Fever and Typhoid in one of them in 2010, but I will always continue to go back.

Don’t let every travel warning scare you. You’ll be fine, trust me!

“Don’t let travel warnings scare you. Rather, ask fellow travellers.”
The Freest Nomad is the Digital Nomad

The optimal nomadic situation is being a digital nomad.

It means being location independent with the way you make a living by working over the Internet. (See the section on digital nomads for further info)

It enables you to kick those shit-kicking jobs and it might eventually even let you take your standard of living up a notch.

In order to be eligible for this sort of money making option, a few skills can be of advantage: web or graphic design, programming, online writer... Check out the list toward the end of this ebook to find out how to make a living online.

“Digital nomads are a new breed of resourceful entrepreneurs who are able to live and work anywhere they please.”

-Wikipedia
Lastly...

Don’t plan your guts out. Go with the flow.

Book a flight and the first night in a hostel and GO!

Being a nomad is meant to be about spontaneity and flexibility, not about rigid plans and schedules.

It’s also ok to completely screw any plans you ever had and instead see places and do things you didn’t even know existed.

That’s the fun of being a world nomad: You are free to do anything you want.

“A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving.”

-Lao Tzu
How to Travel on a Budget (Properly)
In fact, travelling on the cheap can be an amazing adventure – you’ll be more in touch with the locals, meet many fellow travellers and foster the feeling of independence and freedom.

If you’ve never been travelling on a budget, it’s about time you leave your pre-planned tours, fancy hotels and rental cars behind and experience travel in a pure and simple way.

It might change the way you look at the world, and it will definitely let you keep going for longer…and on and on and on…

I have travelled for as little as $600 a month in Asia and India – and you can too!
Stay in Hostels and Rock Out With Other Travelers

If you want to have a fun time and save money, hostels are your best bet.

They are without doubt the best places to meet other travellers and feel the spirit of being on the road.

Sleeping in dorms is a special experience for the unexperienced, but if you look beyond their disadvantages (sometimes crowded, chaotic and loud) they will be your cheapest option and a great base to meet other peeps.

Most hostels also have community kitchens and lounge rooms, where guests get together for chats, drinks and a good time.

Many hostels offer group tours and activities, which can be loads of fun and a great opportunity to make friends.

Check out Hostelworld.com, the best and most comprehensive hostel booking website.
Become a Couchsurfing Hero

You want it even cheaper than hostels and also get more in touch with the local flair of your destination?

Awesome, that’s the spirit. So go and sign up over at Couchsurfing and find yourself a host (or host other travellers!).

By staying with ‘real’ locals, Couchsurfing is one of the best ways to get closer to a country and its culture.

I’ve had some incredible encounters and adventures staying with people in Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam or even Borneo (Malaysia).

And even if you don’t feel like staying at someone’s place, go and meet people for coffee – on Couchsurfing everything is possible, nothing a must. It’s an amazing community for world nomads.
Guidebooks are Overrated

Apart from the fact that most (paper) guidebooks are expensive and heavy, they also tell you a lot of crap and cloud your mind and eyes with preconceptions and pre-fabricated one-dimensional images about your destination. Why don’t you just go with an open heart and no expectations?

My advice: Do your research online before you leave in forums (Bootsnall and Thorntree for example) and check out Wikitravel and Travelfish.

Print off some maps or other valuable information to take with you. Once you’re on the road let your fellow travellers and locals be your guide – and go with the flow. I had the best times without a guidebook: I made new friends asking for advice and ended up in amazing places that weren’t even mentioned in any of the big travel publications. And besides, do you really want to be one in a million walking around with a Lonely Planet in their face all the time, following the same trails and seeing the same things? No? Thought so.
Use Public Transport

If you’re from the US of A, you might be appalled to the idea of public transport. If you are, we probably won’t become friends.

In any case, public transport, apart from being a sustainable and green way to get from A to B, is a cheap way to get around almost anywhere in the world.

Only your own personal steam engine called body, sweat and muscles will take you for even less moolah (also recommended).

Rental cars and taxis are for the lazy and affluent. Not us then.

However, public transport can be 1) a great way to see a city or a country on the cheap and 2) a unique experience, especially in countries where chickens and as many people as possibly possible are allowed on buses.

The best website for anything related to public transport around the world is Seat61.
Local food is ALWAYS the cheapest option.

And besides, it’s always the tastiest one as well.

Especially in less developed countries, Western food can be incredibly expensive and crap at the same time. Prett bad deal.

And besides, eating the local cuisine is part of the travelling experience and can end up in an awesome adventure (e.g. In countries where you can’t read the menu!).

In Western countries, I’d recommend buying food in the supermarkets (another adventure possibility!) and cooking in hostel kitchens (with fellow travellers even more fun).
By travelling slowly, I don’t mean crawling from A to B – I mean stop moving so much, don’t be an ADD traveller on ecstasy who wants to tick off places and sights like an attendance list. It won’t make for better stories back home, trust me. You know what makes for better stories and experiences? Chilling the heck out and by doing that opening yourself to new possibilities.

The best and craziest things happened to me when I least expected them, when I had no plan and just hung out. Make yourself accessible for great experiences, don’t rush from place to place purely consuming your surroundings. If I could only give you one advice in this blogpost, it would be to slow down. And take resting days (or weeks) – don’t end up becoming a burnt-out traveller; they are the saddest kind. Most people stay in a place for about two to three days, which is at least two to three days too short of the minimum time I would recommend. Oh, almost forgot: Travelling slowly also saves you $$ of course: You get better accommodation deals for longer stays, you don’t spend so much on transport and resting days keep you from spending money on activities.
Europe, Oceania and North America are awesome continents to visit, but the probability of you coming home early dead-broke is pretty high.

If finances are tight, check out Central America, India or (South East) Asia – your home currency stretches a lot further in those regions.

Hostel beds or even whole bungalows can be as cheap as a few dollars a night (even less in India!) and you can eat three times a day for less than a tenner.

Apart from the $$$ factor, many cheap destinations are incredibly exotic and culturally fascinating. Being somewhere completely different from what you’re used to can be challenging but also highly rewarding.
Volunteer or Work Exchange

If you are prepared to make bit of an effort, you can easily volunteer your time in exchange for a bed and food, meet awesome people and make a positive impact on the local community you are visiting.

Keep your eyes open as you travel and you will more than likely come across places that can use your help: teaching English, helping out on farms, spending time with orphans, providing computer help – the list goes on.

Also, check out WWOOF or Workaway in case you don’t come across any other opportunities.

Be cautious of volunteer organisations that charge thousands of dollars to let you work with them – know that there are cheaper and better ways (unless you can find out exactly where your money goes).

Check out the section on travel jobs later in this ebook.
Find Free Things To Do

Anywhere you go, you can find free activities. The most obvious one would be going on a walk and taking photos, but there are more.

In many European cities you can find museums where entry is free or organised alternative sightseeing tours based on donations.

Ask in your hostel, other travellers, research online and consult the locals about free things to do in the area. If you rely on your guidebook, search it for activities that don’t cost anything.

Free doesn’t have to mean less fun. Many free activities off the beaten path could mean big adventures.
The word gadget already indicates that it is something extra, something to play with. However, it depends on how you define a gadget and at what stage parts of your gear become gadgets. Gladly you have me to tell you.

Many travel brands try to sell you stuff you don’t really need. They might make it sound like you really do, but trust me, most of the stuff you get at an outdoor / globetrotter shop is superfluous for about 90% of all travellers I have met.

You don’t need those ridiculous zip-off pants, really. Normal fabric pants will do just fine! Also, leave your big sleeping bag at home, you will only pick up bed bugs and spread them. Mosquito net? Most of time pure waste of money. Use the fan in your room and mosquito repellent. Done.

For a more comprehensive list of useless gadgets, see the list towards the end of this ebook.
Make Friends With Locals

For one, making friends with locals is lots of fun and rewarding. If you really want to learn about a place and its culture, you have got to talk to the people who live there!

Try to make it a habit to chat up locals on a regular basis - your travel experience will be so much richer!

A nice little benefit of knowing how to connect well with locals, is that they always know the cheap and good spots to eat and hang out - meaning: you get valuable insider info that might save you big bucks.
**Bonus Tips**

**Stay away from cities and posh or mainstream travel locations**
Self-explanatory.

**Avoid Euro-Rail Passes and RTW Tickets**
They sound like money savers, but aren’t always. You also get more flexibility by booking one-way tickets.

**Keep alcohol and partying to a minimum**
Eats up your moolah

**Skip the major tourist trails / spots**
Visit alternative, non-Lonely-Planet popular places.
Advanced World Nomadism: Work to Travel, Travel to Work
How to Work and Travel

One of the most frequent questions I get asked, like so many long-term travellers, vagabonds and world nomad, is “How do you make money while travelling?” or “How do you afford your travels and living abroad?”.

The answer is actually quite simple: Work! For example, I’m a scuba dive instructor, which means I can work anywhere were there are fish (but I prefer the tropics). This is great, as I can move around the world and work in many different places.

There are many, many jobs that allow for a lot of travel or even require you to travel a lot. So if you want to combine your passion for seeing the world and living a nomad’s life, you should consider checking out the option in the list that follows.

Some of them are easy to get and some of them require quite a bit of training (and possibly money to obtain that training), but it can be worth it in the long run (even if you get paid badly ;))

If you find one job that you fancy, go and do some research online and find the first steps you need to take to get closer to your dream of working and travelling at the same time.
Work & Travel Jobs

ESL Teacher
Travel Nurse
Travel Agent
Tour Guide
Yacht Sailor
Cruise Ship Jobs / ClubMed, Robinson Clubs etc.
Au-Pair
Busker
WWOOFing
PeaceCorps Volunteer
Flight Attendant
Pilot
Importer/Exporter
Host/Hostess
Interpreter/Translator
Diplomat
Missionary
Filmmaker
Job in a Hostel
Seasonal Work
Scuba Dive Instructor (that’s me) / Snowboard Instructor / Surf Instructor
Chef
Online Resources for Travel Jobs

Workaway: Holds a database of families, individuals or organizations in an extensive range of different countries who have registered with them and are looking for volunteer help in a huge range of different fields.

Wwoof: Also known as “Willing Workers On Organic Farms”, is a loose network of national organisations that facilitate placement of volunteers on organic farms. Many offer free room and board in exchange for work.

Transitions Abroad: Web portal and webzine for work, study, travel, living, and volunteering abroad. Huge amount of articles, first-hand experiences, links and more.

Dave’s ESL Cafe: THE meeting place for (future) English teachers from around the world. Has a big job board, forum and lots of info for teaching english ANYWHERE.

Anywork Anywhere: Jobs and resources for Work & Travel worldwide, including Work Visa Infos, job guides and job search.
Digital Nomadism:
Work From Anywhere
What is a Digital Nomad?

Digital Nomads are mobile workers that work location independent, which means they can live and work wherever they please.

They are typically entrepreneurs or freelancers (knowledge workers), who can manage their tasks over the Internet.

Digital Nomad jobs are jobs that you can do over the internet (hence the word digital), and thus from anywhere (hence, nomad).

The cool thing about living a digital nomad’s life is that you can take advantage of geo-arbitrage. Geo-arbitrage is earning a Western salary while paying less developed countries’ prices for food and shelter. Example: You earn in USD, but live in the Phillipines or Costa Rica, where your American currency is worth a lot more and hence buys you more for less.

With the Internet is taking over our lives and the way we do business, the need to be bound to a place decreases on a daily basis. New technologies and online tools enable and facilitate teleworking even more - just think Skype, Google Docs, Dropbox and the like.

The digital nomad lifestyle allows you a lot of freedom and flexibililty, which is the reason why it has taken off like a bomb recently with more and more people leaving their conventional jobs behind at home to live where the wind takes them.

Many of them work in coffee shops and co-woring spaces, or anywhere whith a good wireless Internet connection.

As of February 2012, I’m a digital nomad myself and I couldn’t imagine a better life.
Digital Nomad Jobs

Freelance Writer and/or Photographer (blogging, copywriting, ghost writing and article and e-book writing)

Web Developer

Affiliate Marketer

Online Poker Player

Web Designer

Graphic Designer

Sponsorship

Coaching

Software Developer

Consulting

Virtual Assistant

Public relations and social media management working in digital engagement

Communications strategy consulting and content development

Translation and related language services

Selling information products

Trading forex

Online Sales/Marketing
Online Resources for Digital Nomads

How to Earn Money While You Travel - lots of resources and website links for finding freelance and online work

An Electronics Junkie’s Round-the-World Packing List - a packing list by digital nomads

Tools and Resources for Living an Incredibly Kickass Life - everything you need from books, tools, blogs, links, to guides that will secure your life as a digital nomad

An Introductory Guide To Selling Your Professional Services From Anywhere - designed to help you if you have the skills to offer professional services

Becoming a Digital Nomad, Freelance Edition - Christine has lots of great advice for digital nomads on her Almost Fearless blog. This post has tips about becoming a freelancer.

Living Abroad For Less Than $1000 Per Month - Wandering Earl shares his tips on locations around the world where he has lived for less than $1000 a month including India, Thailand, Mexico and even Australia.

The Ultimate Mobile Office Set Up For The Location Independent Professional - tools, gadgets & services to run and manage your location independent business from the open road.

Finding the Right Accommodation – Benny moves to a new location every three months to learn the local language. Here he gives his advice on finding apartments.

A Comprehensive Guide To Staying Connected Globally For Location Independent Digital Nomads - highly valuable advice from the pros.

How to Become an SEO Freelancer in 48 Hours - in case you’re interested, it’s a good way to make cash as a freelancer.

Live and Work Overseas Freelancing on the Web - how to create jobs abroad to finance your travels.
Online Basics for World Nomads:
Wherever You Go, Take This
**Hipmunk**: This is a remarkable new travel search site that aims to take the agony out of travel planning.

**Kayak**: Enables you to easily compare hundreds of travel sites at once, in one comprehensive, fast and intuitive display.

**Momondo**: This is a travel site searching for flights, hotels and car rentals, and providing travel guides written by the users.

**STA Travel**: Travel booking for the young and restless with discounted airfares.

**SkyScanner**: A global, cheap flight search engine – it includes all budget airlines worldwide.
AirBnb: This platform is an online service that matches people seeking vacation rentals and other short-term accommodations with those with rooms to rent, generally private parties that are not professional hoteliers. Listings include private rooms, entire apartments, castles, boats, manors, tree houses, tipis, igloos, private islands and other properties.

Couchsurfing: If you haven’t come across this website, then I’m not sure we’re on the same page traveling-wise. Anyway: I’ve couchsurfed and hosted people from around the world quite a bit in the past. I also made good friends meeting fellow couchsurfers for coffee or drinks. Check out my profile here and let’s meet up next time we’re in the same place!

Hostelworld: Don’t just rely on your guidebook for accommodation, use the Internet! Hostelworld is my hostel search site of choice and I’ve booked a ton of beds/rooms via this platform. It offers huge amount of choice for any budget and also includes many, many hostel reviews from other travellers. Don’t ever just trust one opinion (guidebook)!
Travel-Related

Insurance:

I’ve been using a German long-term travel insurance called HanseMerkur, which I can highly recommend. They cover absolutely everything at a veeery affordable cost. For Non-Germans, I’ve heard many good things about World Nomads. But usually, every country has their own long-term travel insurance companies, so go check out some travel forums below (Bootsnall, Lonely Planet & Travelfish).

Scuba Diving:

I really hope you consider diving on your travels! There are two big dive certification organisations, PADI and SSI. They are equally awesome. But remember: More important than the organisation you choose is the diveshop and their instructors! Always check out a few and go with the one you feel most comfortable with. (If you need any advice on diving worldwide, hit me up!)
Reading about travel before you hit the road is a great way to foster your anticipation. {Reward Links coming up}

**Vagabonding** by Rolf Potts

**Holy Cow** by Sarah McDonald

**Shantaram** by Gregory David Roberts

**Into the Wild** by John Krakauer

You can find more recommendations on my [Amazon list for travel books](#).

Obviously, reading while being on the road is a brilliant pastime as well, so check out my other book recommendations [over here](#).
Awesome Websites

**Matador Network:** Big traveller network and platform with great content. Must check out! One of my favorite websites ever.

**BootsnAll:** Great website with lots of valuable articles and advice in the forums. Highly recommended.

**Travelfish:** Brilliant travel guide for Southeast Asia. With Bootsnall one of the biggest travel forums.

**Vagabondish:** Offbeat backpacking and travel news, advice, how-to tips and tall tales from around the world.

**Wikitravel:** Independent, crowd-sourced online travel guide based on the Wikipedia principle.
Rockstar Packing Advice: How Not to Be a Beginner
Best Travel Gear Ever

- OverBoard Adventure Duffel 35 Litres
- Quick Dry Travel Towel
- Canon G12 Digital Camera
- Inflatable Neck Pillow
- Swiss Army Knife
- Hanging Toiletry Bag
- Travel Sheet
- Compression Bags
- Dry Bag
- All-In-One Travel Power Plug Adapter
- Skullcandy Headphone Ear Buds

Flip Flops – cheap ones do the job well, but for a start any brand from home will do.

Sarong – You can get them for a couple dollars in basically any tropical country around the world, so no need to buy them at home.

I also recommend any 11” or 13” Macbook Air, an external Harddrive, a Kindle and a MP3 player.

And a basic supply of medications: The emphasis here is on ‘basic’. You can get all the medical supplies you need anywhere around the world, trust me.

Obviously you shouldn’t forget things like clothing. Duh. 3-5 tshirts, 2 shorts, 1 pair of light fabric pants, jumper...you get the idea. Pack less than you ever planned on.
Now the following list is almost equally important as the one before.

The amount of stuff I have thrown out, given away or sent back home in my first few weeks of travelling is pretty ridiculous to be honest.

Also consider this packing rule: Pack everything you think you need and then leave half of that at home. It works.

No need to pack for every single weather condition. No need to pack for every single in-case situation you can think off either.

The following list applies especially to tropical countries.

- Zip-Off Pants
- Umbrella
- Traveller’s Cheques
  - Makeup
  - Hiking boots
  - Sleeping bag
  - Rain Jacket
  - Mosquito Net
  - Pair of Jeans
- More than one jumper
- Jacket / Coat
- Water bottle
- More than two books
“Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go. But no matter, the road is life.”

Jack Kerouac
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Thank you.

P.S. There a few affiliate links in this ebook, especially in the gear section. Sorry about that, but we all have to make a living, right! :)

P.P.S. All the images, except for the cover one are shot by me. Thanks to eivindw over at Flickr.
For more insanely useful information about living a world nomad’s lifestyle, visit:

http://www.alifeofblue.com

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Email • conni@alifeofblue.com
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