

9 Quick and Easy Shortcuts— Nail the Perfect Itinerary Every Time.



1.

SKIP THE SHOULD'S.

How do you want to feel on your next vacation? Are you looking to relax and restore? For adrenaline-inducing adventure? Skip the should's—"I should visit my cousins"... "I should really get to Europe"—and **take the trip you need in your life right now.**



2.

DREAM BIGGER.

Now that you know what kind of a vacation you need, dream it up! [Pinterest](#) is an amazing place to search "beautiful islands in the world."

If you're female, check out the [Girls Love Travel \(GLT\) group](#) on Facebook. (I hang out in the [35+ GLT group](#) for older women.) Or just search "Thailand" in the group and cherry pick cool ideas.



3.

LESS IS MORE.

Don't over pack your itinerary! Future you will be so grateful to trip planning you if you don't need a vacation from your vacation.

Tip #1: For a 14 day trip, leave at least one full day with no plans (for laundry, resting up and doing that thing you didn't know you'd want to do until you arrived).

Tip #2: Schedule less. Avoid the temptation to pack each day with tours and reservations.



4.

GIVE IT THE BUDGET TEST.

If you're trying to decide between a week on the [Big Island of Hawaii](#) or [Moorea in French Polynesia](#), give it the budget test. What kind of deals can you find? (Some of my favorite ways to save on plane fares are [here](#).) Don't be too quick to decide your dream trip is not doable!



WHAT DO YOU LOVE TO DO?

While brainstorming activity ideas, keep that goal of how you want to feel and what you love most in your mind. Unless you are an art historian, your eyes may glaze over if you plan five museums over five days in Rome. No “should’s” on this trip, remember?



LEAVE TIME FOR SPONTANEITY.

Are you sensing a theme here? The secret ingredient to rejuvenation on a trip is the opportunity for spontaneous experiences. Here’s how to get it:

Slow down. Leave a half day here and there free of plans. Minimize the number of “one night stands” in your itinerary where you are packing and unpacking as you move from place to place.



MAKE A DINNER RESERVATION BEFORE YOU GO.

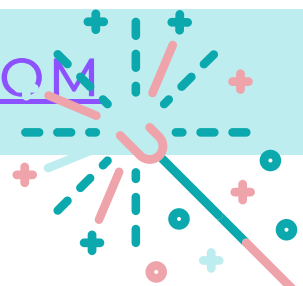
You know what takes a trip from good to great? Making a reservation at a phenomenal restaurant or two before you go. This is the #1 thing I wish I’d learned earlier when planning a trip. So avoid disappointment by deciding where to go now.

Check out the best places on [Yelp](#) in the U.S. or [TripAdvisor](#) abroad. (Call worldwide for free vvia Whatsapp or Skype).



ADD ONE AMAZING ACTIVITY.

Add one amazing thing to the itinerary. This is your bridge from indulging in a trip fantasy to actually making it happen. Schedule the actual date this particular thing will happen later but decide what it’s going to be now. Heading to Tuscany? [Take a cooking class](#). Visiting Maui? [Snorkel Molokini](#).





COMMIT TO YOUR TRIP. BOOK IT!

So...you know where you want to go...what you want to do...and where you want to eat. It's time to lock in a plan. Settle on a date. Give your vacation notice at work and commit to your trip! **Don't let all this forward momentum fizzle.** You're ready to firm up your plan.

And that's it! Questions? Drop me a note at Chris@ExploreNoworNever.com

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About Me



I'm a 50something San Diego-based travel blogger. In 2017, I took 25 years of experience ghostwriting best-selling books for VIPs and turned it into a travel passion project with my blog.

With 320,000 monthly visitors, Explore Now or Never features detailed worldwide travel itineraries, secret travel hacks, and info on all of my favorite gear.

