

Travel - Reading, Listening and Vocabulary

When I was younger my whole family used to travel around Ireland in an old Volkswagen Beetle. Not only this, but we used to sleep in the car at night too, my parents, my brother, my sister and me. It was really **cramped** and my brother's socks smelled terrible, but we had great times travelling on my parent's low **budget**.

When I was older, I guess in my teens, I loved **hitch-hiking** around Ireland, probably because it was free and it made me feel free. Sometimes, I would **stick out my thumb** and **hitch a lift** to university or to the beach or to the mountains, anywhere really. In the summer I really enjoyed **youth hostelling** too. I met people from all over the world there, people from Germany, Brazil, Japan, France and so on. I guess this is where my love of travel began.

I remember one time telling my parents that I was going to stay in my friend's house for the weekend; instead I got on a boat and **headed** for London. I think I was 16 at the time. I had saved up some money, from odd jobs here and there, but when I got to London, I realized how expensive **Youth Hostels** were. I had to cut short my trip to only a night, but it was great, I had my **sleeping bag**, the **bunk beds** were great and the **hostellers** were all friendly.

My **travel bug** really caught on during university. I would go to London or Paris for the weekend regularly, sometimes to see friends, but mostly to go to art exhibitions. Now, I wasn't a rich student. In fact I remember when I was a student, a telephone company chasing after me to try and get me to pay a bill, and I remember surviving on one box of biscuits for two weeks, so how could I travel to these places?

In Europe, travelling by train can be kind of expensive, but taking a boat is cheaper. Cheaper still is flying. **Hopping around** Europe by plane doesn't cost too much if you are willing to put up with a few cutbacks on the plane, such as no food, higher taxes and so on. The chief **snag** is finding reasonably priced accommodation when you arrive at your destination.

Luckily I had made lots of friends around Europe, from the hostels I used to go to during the summer in Ireland. We **kept in touch** and I was able to stay with them, when I travelled. The flights were easy to find. Europe has a few budget airlines, such as Ryan Air, Go and Easy Jet. These airline companies will fly you to various cities around Europe for about €30. I always had to be on the lookout for **cheap deals**, either on **Teletext** or the Internet.

I didn't have a credit card then, so it was not as easy to book tickets online, normally I'd just check them out online first, then go to my local **Travel Agent** and get them that way.

Today however; when I travel, I just open up the website I want to use, pick my flight, use my credit card number and a **secure page** for payment, such as Pay Pal, then within 5 seconds I can receive **confirmation** of my booking by email. I'll be able to see my **booking reference number**, the **day of my departure** and so on. Later when I go to the airport I'll just hand over my passport and **quote** my reference number. Oh and answer the security questions.

Most of my friends back home travel about once a year. They go on **package holidays** to the south of Spain for 2 weeks. Some would rent a Villa; others would get hotels with pools.

When I was a kid I never went abroad, I travelled the length and breadth of Ireland in a clapped out old Beetle. It seems a million miles away now, but when I get on Facebook and see photos of my friends and their kids, travelling around Ireland, I think back to those times with my family and smile.

Phrases

The most commonly used Travel Phrasal Verbs

Verb	Collocation	Example
ask around		I'll ask around and see if there's a room vacant somewhere.
back out	plan	I'm going to back out on our plan to go to Canada for spring break -I'm going to Hawaii instead.
be off		She's caught the travel bug now - she's off to Barbados this year.
be over		My holidays are nearly over . Next week I'll be back at work.
bounce back		The region's tourism industry has bounced back after the two major bombings in this city in March and April.
bring back	memories	Looking at the photos brought back a lot of memories of my visit to the place.
carry out	restoration work	Fish and vegetable stalls have moved to the north of the city while restoration work is being carried out on the market hall.
check in	hotel	We checked in to the hotel a little after midnight.
chill out		It's a great place to chill out for a few days.
come back		She's leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
cool off		Don't be tempted to cool off in the fountain, or you'll be fined.
drag away	water	We had to drag ourselves away from the azure waters and white beaches.
drink in	view	This is a fabulous place to sit and drink in the view of the intriguing islands just off the coast.
end up		La Palma is a unique island. No wonder so many people who come to visit end up staying!
fly off		Last night, they flew off for a week's break in Spain.
get away		Let's get away for a few days.
get back	photos	Usually, after a holiday, you wait with excitement to get your photos back from the developers.
get by		Albania is very cheap, and you can get by on relatively low cash.
get up to		What do you think your daughter is getting up to in Tenerife?
go away		We went away for the weekend.
go off		He went off on holiday without saying goodbye.
hash out	details	We will be contacting you to hash out details as your cruise approaches. Please contact us if you have any further questions.
head into	mountains	After we pass the township of Haast we head into the mountains and bid our farewell to the coastline.
hide away		Beautifully converted stone barns hidden away on a small Devon farm with lovely gardens and magnificent views.