Start your world travel plan

Before you open another seventeen tabs, work out what sort of trip would actually suit you. A longer journey starts with a few honest decisions, not a perfect route.

Five things to settle first

Foundation	Ask yourself	My starting point
Time	How long can I be away, including the time needed to come home and settle?	
Money	What can I spend after protecting bills, an emergency buffer and my return?	
Style	How much movement, company, privacy and comfort do I want?	
Practicalities	What paperwork, health preparation and home arrangements need attention?	
Curiosity	What am I hoping to see, learn or simply enjoy?	

My take: book the things that would be costly or difficult to leave open. Keep some ordinary days free. The much-used 70/30 split is a planning suggestion, not a magic formula.

A quick readiness check

- ☐ I can explain why I want this trip in my own words.
- ☐ I have a realistic time window and a plan for responsibilities at home.
- ☐ I know what I can afford and what would make me pause.
- ☐ I have considered the pace, company and comfort I actually enjoy.
- ☐ I can change plans without treating the whole trip as a failure.

Avoid the expensive early mistakes

Plan for your energy as well as your wallet. Don’t book a trip for the photographs and discover you dislike the daily reality. Check entry rules before committing money, and read the cancellation terms before your enthusiasm gets hold of the card.

The three decisions I need to make next

My first practical action, and when I will do it

Useful links

Plan your world travel

Plan your trip

Explore travel styles

Explore destinations