

road, a connection that will serve you well in your developing career.

- Rule out the idea of a normal workday. The nine-to-five time clock goes out the window when you're on the road; expect to put in long hours (including breakfasts, dinners and after-dinner meetings). Chances are you'll have some time to yourself during each day, but be flexible in making plans. (Because of the added hours, and because many business trips occur over the weekend, it's not unreasonable to ask your employer to reimburse you with additional vacation or personal days to make up the difference; most major companies have a formal "comp time" program already in place. Ask.)

- Join a frequent-flier program. Every major airline has at least some incentive program in place that awards repeat travelers discounts and bonuses based on total miles traveled. If your company is paying your airfare, you can still benefit from airline bonus



travel programs as long as the tickets are made out in your name. This set-up may soon change, as businesses adopt austerity measures to keep costs down, but for now feel guilt-free to take advantage of a good thing. We know of many a first-year employee who has paid for a first vacation with frequent-flier bonus points racked up on company business.

- Put down roots, even small ones, in cities you'll visit often. Find a restaurant, or hotel, you particularly like, and become a valued repeat customer. Get out and develop a feel for the city in your free time. Read the local newspapers; the news you'll find may not be directly important to you, but it will be important to the people you're meeting and it's a good idea to keep on top of events shaping their lives.

- If you've got some old friends in the area, look them up; a friendly face in a strange place can make even the most grueling business trip easier to swallow.

- Try to extend your business trips with a few personal days at either end of your visit. Once your company has paid your way, round-trip, it makes sense to stay on, or arrive early, to enjoy some down time to yourself. If you can spare the time, it's a great way to sneak in a mini-vacation. You can pick up the difference in costs for an extended stay, or for a short stop-over in another city on the way home.

## LOOKING BACK AT THE AMERICAN EXPRESS REAL LIFE PLANNER

**T**hat about does it for this year's edition of *The American Express Real Life Planner*, the only comprehensive guide to real world living written specifically for college students.

This time around we've chartered some important new territory to complement last year's look at getting started, office politics, networking, managing your money, investing your money and continuing education. If you've been with us from the start of this school year you've learned to master the power of persuasion, to capture the exciting spirit of entrepreneurship sweeping today's business community, and to budget your time efficiently and effectively. Our primers on community commitment and health and fitness hopefully laid the groundwork for a lifetime of civic-mindedness, and for the not-at-all-trivial pursuit of sound mind and body, and this month's look at travel and leisure lets us close on a pleasant note indeed.

Along the way you've also heard from some recent graduates, young professionals taking the big steps in which you will soon follow. Their stories, told in their own voices, will help you to write your own better.

We hope you've taken something away from this year's edition of *The American Express Real Life Planner*, something to carry with you as you make your own way in the post-college world. Drop us a line and let us know where we've been of help, and where we might help you in future editions. If you've missed any installments of this year's edition, you can complete the set by writing to us in care of *Newsweek On Campus*, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Let us hear from you.

And, oh, we almost forgot: good luck.



## RECOMMENDED READING

- **STEPHEN BIRNBAUM TRAVEL GUIDES**, by Stephen Birnbaum (Houghton Mifflin)
- **LET'S GO GUIDES**, various editors (St. Martin's Press)
- **ROADSIDE AMERICA**, by Jack Barth, Doug Kirby, Ken Smith and Mike Wilkins (Fireseed Books)
- **HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO EUROPE**, by Ken Walsh (Evergreen/Grove Press)
- **EUROPE ON \$25 A DAY**, by Arthur Frommer (Simon & Schuster)
- **THE DISCRIMINATING TRAVELER**, by Carole Haber (Freundlich Books/Scribners)
- **THE DAILY PLANET VACATION ALMANAC**, by Kim Long and Terry Reim (Ballantine Books)
- **THE BEST EUROPEAN TRAVEL TIPS**, by John Whitman (Simon & Schuster)
- **HOW TO BEAT THE HIGH COST OF TRAVEL**, by Tom Brosnahan (Frommer/Simon & Schuster)
- **THE NEW YORK TIMES PRACTICAL TRAVELER**, by Paul Grimes (Times Books/Random House)
- **THE SOPHISTICATED TRAVELER SERIES**, edited by A.M. Rosenthal (The New York Times/Villard Books)