



Got Great Pictures?

Everybody loves to show off photos from their travels. You in front of Trinity College. The gang on a picnic in Provence. The volunteer crew hard at work. Now your friends and family can see them in *Student Travels* magazine! Send us your best shots. If we decide to use it, we'll send you \$50. Not bad, eh? Be sure to include a return address so we can send them back to you. Mail photos to: *Student Travels*, 376 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

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Road Wise

you leave the United States. For more information and an application, see page 20.

Renting a car can be surprisingly affordable, too — especially if you've got a couple of fellow travelers lined up. Even though gas prices are steep at about \$4 a gallon, compact cars and continental distances combine to minimize the impact. Then again, if you're mostly city-bound, you may not want the hassle (and expense) of coping with a car. The best bet might be to book one for a week or more of back-roads rambles

in a particularly enticing slice of countryside: Italy's Tuscany, perhaps, or the Cotswolds of England. Depending on the car model (opt for standard shift) and country, it can cost as little as \$99 a week, plus gas, taxes and insurance. Council Travel, in cooperation with Auto Europe, offers unbeatable student rates. By the way, it's much cheaper to reserve and pay here. If you use a credit card, you may already be covered for collision; check first to avoid paying twice.

Even if you start out solo, you can always find riders — or a ride — through matchmaking organizations such as France's Allostop or Germany's Mitfahrzentralen. You'll be able to find plenty of other students to hook up with. Just keep your ears open and be willing to talk to people. Hitchhiking in Europe is generally considered safer than in the United States. Plenty of people do it. Hitch with a friend, and don't toss your street smarts to the wind.

Another option for those who want to get around cheaply in the European tradition is bicycling. Touring by bicycle keeps you in touch with the land and the people and gives you the freedom to explore the countryside. Lots of train stations rent bicycles at low daily or weekly rates, though tried-and-true two-wheelers will want to bring their own. Many airlines let you take one (disassembled) as luggage.



Shahana, Rachel and Kate, three of the many students who have flocked to Prague in the past few years, create their own version of one of the city's historic fountains.

Give Me Shelter (Please)

Lodgings, whatever their relative luxury, can account for about half your costs, so plan wisely.

Seasoned travelers make a practice of pulling into town by noon. Especially in July and August when so many European students travel, budget accommodations fill up fast. Tourist information offices,

usually located in train stations, can be a big help in getting you a cheap place to stay. If the anxiety gets to be overwhelming, or you're facing undue seasonal competition, book some of your stays in advance.

For those on the move, hostels can't be beat. They're cheap (\$5 to \$15 a night with a three-night max most places), hospitable and a hotbed of traveling tips. Hostels are the place to meet students from everywhere, to find out where they've been, how they're getting around. If you're traveling alone, they're ideal for linking up with traveling companions. For a Hosteling International membership application, see page 34.

Another very cheap option is renting a room in a private home. In Eastern Europe, this may be not just the cheapest, but the only option for the budget traveler. Get info at the tourist information offices in the train stations. If you're arriving on a Mediterranean island, check out what's available from the women meeting the ferry waving pictures of their best rooms. Before you agree on a room or price, make sure you know not only what you're getting but also where you're getting it.

If you're looking for a cheap hotel or pension, the guidebooks should steer you well. Single rooms, incidentally, are scarce as well as costly; doubling (or tripling) up could save you a bundle. Whatever you choose, you want to feel comfortable, so ask to see the room before you pay.

However, there's nothing better than free lodgings. Contact every conceivable
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