UDLS
(UnDistinguished Lecture Series)

Traveling Around the World
(as a student)

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UDLS Czar
Why?

- In one word: Experiences
- Languages & Cultures
- Adventures
- Perspective
- FOOD
- Photography
- Just for the hell of it!
Where?

- Pretty much anywhere that comes to mind
- My favorites so far
  - Italy: Tuscany
  - Switzerland
  - Amsterdam
  - Prague
  - Kerala, Goa
- Wishlist: Spain, South France, Iceland, New Zealand, NE India …
Eurotrip
How?

• Three main things
  • Time
  • Money
  • Enthusiasm
But I am a Grad Student!

• Bunch up your travel with home visits
  • Saves money, time & effort

• Conferences
  • Researchers’ excuse to travel and socialize
  • Go a few days early
  • Visit close by places
  • Professors pay for your travel!
Budget Travel

- Destinations
  - Book for destinations along the way
  - Be flexible
    - Keep a list of travel destinations
- Traveling to multiple locations
  - Travel local
  - Book long travels (especially trains) in advance!
- Transit
  - Day transit pass & other deals
  - Weight the odds!
Budget Travel

• Hotels
  • Book hostels in advance
    • On the spot hotel search is expensive!
  • Train travel during night
    • European trains are especially comfortable
• Food
  • Many hostels offer shared kitchens
  • Use WikiTravel and other resources such as Frommers
  • Ask locals!
• CouchSurfing (Dead?), AirBnB
• Stay with Friends
Visa constraints

• VISA waived?
  • London transit 😊
• US Visa => Visa waived
  • Mexico and other Central American destinations
• Canadian Citizenship => Visa waived
  • Most of Europe and much more
• Dubai, Hong Kong: Get Visa on landing
Travel Tips

• Travel Light
  • You do not need too many clothes!
  • Small travel kit
    • Always have one ready with small toothpaste etc
    • Pick up stuff from conference hotels!

• Photography
  • Budget your lenses
  • Please don’t carry a full tripod!
  • Put that camera away
  • Keep smartphone or some small camera handy
Travel Tips

• Language
  • Know basic phrases
  • Get a guide book!
  • Start conversation with “Do you know English?” in the local language.
  • Learn along the way
  • Converse with locals in local language.
  • Understand gestures
Travel Tips

- Traffic Rules
  - Understand traffic situations (before you get there)
  - Car renting?
    - Most countries allow home country licenses. Figure it out.
- Local help
  - CouchSurfing
  - Friends
    - Tip: Friends of friends are your friends!
      - Much bigger circle
Travel Tips

• Food
  • Check local help tip above
  • Use smartphones
    • Free WiFis are not impossible to find
  • Eat local
  • Splurge sometimes
Planning travels

• Plan in advance!
  • Read about destination from multiple guidebooks
  • Check local help tip above
  • Plan using info on CouchSurfing and forums
  • Full city view

• Be flexible
  • You WILL get tired sometimes
  • You WILL lose your way (hopefully only occasionally)
  • You DO NOT have to visit every place
    • Give yourself time to enjoy the city
Planning Travel

• Weather
  • Plan according to it
  • Prepare for it
• Local Festivals
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<th>Travel Quotes</th>
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<td>• The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page. - Saint Augustine</td>
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<td>• I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move. - Robert Louis Stevenso</td>
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<td>• सैर कर दुनिया की गाफिल, जिंदगानी फिर कहाँ जिंदगी गर फिर मिली तो, नौजवानी फिर कहाँ</td>
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