

# 10. Travel arrangements

In order to be as prepared as possible for your gap experience, you should think ahead about how you will get to your chosen destination, how you will travel around once you're overseas and what information will be useful to know in advance.

Consider the following:

- Gather as much information as you can about transport options and where to buy tickets before you leave. This will also help with your budgeting and planning your itinerary, and enable you to pre-book tickets where possible.
- Multi-trip tickets for flights, buses and other forms of transport can be cheaper than individual journey tickets. Research the options for your chosen destination(s).
- Research your planned routes and check what regions they go through. Some countries have acknowledged 'no-go' areas which must be avoided.
- It is generally not advisable to travel at night though in some countries the night buses and roads are of good quality and overnight travel is considered relatively safe. Know before you go which category your destination fits into by checking FCO and other country-specific information: [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).
- It is advisable to have the contact details of nearby accommodation for any transport terminal in case your transport link is delayed or cancelled. If you are arriving at a destination late at night, it is also advisable to have pre-booked accommodation and additional transport organised to take you there.
- Be aware that many hostels/hotels offer an airport pick-up as part of their service so always ask this in advance. Airport taxis tend to be very expensive and drivers take advantage of the fact that people are arriving who may not be aware that there are cheaper ways to get to town.
- To keep your personal possessions as safe as possible keep your luggage with you at all times in transport terminals and transfer any valuables to a day sack that you can keep with you if other luggage is put in a hold. If your luggage is in a hold or on the roof, it is recommended to get out and check your luggage is not being removed before you reach your destination.

More tips about travel around and between countries are available from:

- Guidebooks
- Travel magazines
- Online travel forums e.g. [www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree) or [www.tripbod.com](http://www.tripbod.com)
- Travel Agents e.g. Trailfinders [www.trailfinders.com](http://www.trailfinders.com) and STA Travel [www.statravel.co.uk](http://www.statravel.co.uk)
- You can also talk to other travellers for recommendations

## Exploratory questions to ask yourself:

- What modes of transport will I use to travel around and between countries?
- What can be pre-booked before departure from the UK?
- Do I have to organise my own transport or is it organised for me?
- Do I want to use tourist transport or local transport networks when travelling within countries? What are the pros and cons of each?
- What transport operators would be available to me?
- Are they reliable and do they take me to the particular places I want to visit?
- Do the ticket costs fit with my budget?
- Can I pre-book tickets or shall I buy during travel?
- Will I need accommodation near to my arrival location for the first night? Can this be pre-booked?
- How will I get to my departure location in the UK and back home on my return?