BILL NOLTING, International Center, Assistant Director, Education Abroad

AUDREY BUSWELL, International Center, Education Abroad Advisor

KUN ZHAO, Graduate Student, International Center Peer Advisor
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Visa?

Guidebooks

Finances
HOW TO DECIDE WHERE TO GO

What appeals to you?
REVIEWS ARE USEFUL, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THEY’RE ONE PERSON’S OPINION.
CHECK THE WEATHER
Fact: The days before & after the Thanksgiving holiday are some of the busiest travel days of the year!
SAVE MONEY

Groupon & Living Social

www.sirlinksalot.net/travel.html

Informational brochures from the tourism bureau

Coupon books from businesses
TRIPS AROUND MICHIGAN

Largest Cities/Metro Areas
- Detroit – sports, concerts, restaurants – most convenient to Ann Arbor (45 minutes by car)
- Grand Rapids – smaller than Detroit, but still plenty to do (2 hours by car)
- Lansing – Capital; seat of government (1 hour by car)

Other popular places:
- Mackinaw City/Island/Bridge (4 hours by car)
- Traverse City (4 hours by car)
- Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes (4.5 hours by car)
- Upper Peninsula (5-10 hours by car, depending on where you go)
- Lake Michigan Coast (3 hours by car)
- Frankenmuth (1.5 hours by car)
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks (30 minutes by car)
- State Parks (Michigan) (various)

Michigan’s Tourism Site: http://www.michigan.org/
WE KNOW YOU’VE JUST ARRIVED, BUT ...

Study  Intern  Volunteer  Research

ABROAD!

Visit the International Center’s Education Abroad Office
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Insurance

Guidebooks
Ask hostel/hotel staff about places to avoid

Travel Registry

Immunizations

Avoid danger
- Abandoned places
- Hitchhikers
- Walking around at night
- Project confidence!
- Women traveling alone
GETTING AROUND NORTH AMERICA

Planes

Buses

Transportation

Trains

Automobiles
PLANES

- STA Travel
- Other travel websites:
  - www.expedia.com
  - www.kayak.com
  - www.bing.com/travel
- Low cost airlines flying out of Detroit: Southwest, Spirit, AirTran, and USA3000, Frontier
  - Consider extra fees!

Airfare within North America is *not* cheap. Book early to get the best deals.
TRAINS

• **Amtrak**
  • Save 10% with an International Student ID card
  • [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

• **Via Rail**
  • Canada only
  • Youth discounts available!
  • [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca)
BUSES

• Fares deeply discounted when you book far in advance!

• Megabus (Chicago Only)
  • www.megabus.com/us

• Greyhound
  • www.greyhound.com
AUTOMOBILES

- **Renting**
  - Considerations: your age, insurance, often requires a credit card

- **Hourly Car Rental**: Zipcar

- **Car-Sharing**: Zimride

- **Taxi Alternatives**
  - Lyft & Uber

- "Buying a Used Car"
  - 8/20 @ 2:30 AM, R0220
  - 8/28 @ 1:00 PM, R0210
  - 9/4 @ 11:00 AM, R1230

- “Getting Around Ann Arbor and Personal Safety”
  - 8/17 @ 9:00 AM, R0230
  - 8/24 @ 10:30 AM, R0320
  - 9/2 @ 1:00 PM, R0210

Look for promotional/coupon codes to save money on car rentals!
### ACCOMMODATIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotels/Motels</th>
<th><a href="http://www.hotels.com">www.hotels.com</a></th>
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<td><a href="http://www.hotwire.com">www.hotwire.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.hostelworld.com">www.hostelworld.com</a></td>
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<td>Or contact STA Travel!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Alternative Accommodations</th>
<th><a href="http://www.airbnb.com">Airbnb</a> – rent apts and homes</th>
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<td><a href="http://www.couchsurfing.com">www.couchsurfing.com</a></td>
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<td>Camping – equipment rentals available through U-M</td>
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TRAVEL TIPS FROM KUN

• Clear Travel Agenda (Always have a plan B)
• Always ask (People are friendly)
• Read the maps (Google map may not always work especially in big cities or rural areas)
• Make time worthwhile (Do some work while on Greyhound!)
• Safety (This is always the top priority, if you’re not sure, then don’t do it)
ORGANIZED TRIPS THROUGH INT’L CENTER

Trips around Michigan (& Chicago)!

Look for email announcements!

Check out event listings here: www.internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/social-events.html
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TRIPS

- Organized by UM Rec Sports Outdoor Adventure Program

www.recsports.umich.edu/outdooradv/trips/
TRAVELING ON THE GREYHOUND!

• Online ticket is the cheapest but non-refundable
• Takes time to travel since Greyhound stops frequently
• Station in Ann Arbor is a bit tricky
• Outlet equipped to charge phones and laptops as well as Wi-Fi (some coaches don’t have)
APPLYING FOR A CANADIAN VISA!

• Canada Visa
• Approximately a month to apply
• Check the website http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
• Fill the application form and required materials online and mail passport to office in New York
• No photo on visa
OTHER HELPFUL WEBSITES

- International Center
- Lonely Planet
- Frommer’s North America
- DrVoyageur
- GoogleMaps
SAFE TRAVELS!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE EVALUATIONS. THANK YOU!