BUDGET TRAVEL
IN NORTH AMERICA

Marissa Spada, Peer Advisor
Kelly Wagner, Program Manager
Welcome to Ann Arbor, Michigan!
Overview of Presentation

- Trips in Michigan
- Other North American destinations
- Check Before you Leave
- Things to Consider
- Health and Safety
- Getting around North America: Planes, Trains, Buses, Road Trip
- Discounts
- Accommodations
- Outdoor Trips
- Organized Trips
- Helpful Sites
Trips in State: Largest Cities

- Detroit – sports, concerts, restaurants – most convenient to Ann Arbor (45 minutes)
- Grand Rapids – smaller than Detroit, but still plenty to do (2 hours)
- Lansing – Capital; seat of government (1 hour)
Mackinaw City/Island/Bridge (4 hours)
Traverse City (4 hours)
**Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes** (4.5 hours)
Upper Peninsula (5-10 hours)
Lake Michigan Coast (3 hours)
Frankenmuth (1.5 hours)
**Huron-Clinton Metroparks** (30 minutes)
State Parks (Michigan)
Trips in United States:
Other Popular Destinations
Trips in Canada: Popular Destinations
Trips in Southern North America: Popular Destinations
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

✅ Visa?

✅ Guidebooks

✅ Finances

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html
THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Check the weather
- Consider Time
- Save Money

Fact: The days before & after the Thanksgiving holiday are some of the busiest travel days of the year!

Groupon
Informational brochures from the tourism bureau
Student Rates
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Insurance

Guidebooks
Ask hostel/hotel staff about places to avoid

Travel Registry

Avoid Danger
- Abandoned places
- Hitchhikers
- Walking around at night
- Women traveling alone

Immunizations
## GETTING AROUND NORTH AMERICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PLANES</th>
<th>TRAINS</th>
<th>BUSSES</th>
<th>ROAD TRIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
<td>Cheap to Expensive</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Cheap</td>
<td>Cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME</strong></td>
<td>Quick</td>
<td>Long</td>
<td>Long</td>
<td>Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example: NEW YORK</strong></td>
<td>$84 (1.75 hours)</td>
<td>$94 (18 hours)</td>
<td>$56 (15 hours)</td>
<td>$60 (9.5 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example: CHICAGO</strong></td>
<td>$69 (1.25 hours)</td>
<td>$37 (4.5 hours)</td>
<td>$19 (6 hours)</td>
<td>$27 (4 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROS</strong></td>
<td>Time saving</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
<td>Scenic, cheapest if carpooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONS</strong></td>
<td>Costs can vary depending on time of year, baggage costs</td>
<td>Long trip - spend more money on buying meals along the way</td>
<td>Long trip - spend more money on buying meals along the way</td>
<td>Need to maintain car, pay for any car problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Travel websites:
- www.statravel.com
- www.expedia.com
- www.kayak.com
- www.studentuniverse.com

Low cost airlines flying out of Detroit:
Southwest, Spirit, JetBlue, and Frontier
- Consider extra fees!

Join Mileage programs
- You can earn miles toward free domestic and international flights
TRAINS

Amtrak
- Save 10% with an International Student ID card
- www.amtrak.com

Via Rail
- Canada only
- Student discounts available!
- www.viarail.ca
BUSES

Fares discounted when you book in advance!

- Megabus: [www.megabus.com/us](http://www.megabus.com/us)
- Greyhound: [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)
- Michigan Flyer: [http://www.michiganflyer.com](http://www.michiganflyer.com)
  - $12 to go from BTC to Detroit Metro Airport
  - Has Wifi and Power Outlet
  - Program is through student government
  - Conditional on academic calendar
ROAD TRIP

● Take your car and go across the country!
● Tips:
  ■ Check your car (fluid levels, brakes, tires, etc.)
  ■ Toll money
  ■ Have maps (don’t rely on GPS)
● Renting a Car:
  ■ Insurance coverage- Get it!
  ■ Age restrictions (25 and under have higher rates)
  ■ Look on sites like Priceline for best rates
Discount Opportunities

Sites:
- Brad's Deals
- Groupon
- Living Social

International Student Identity Card (ISIC: need to apply. Registration Fee $25)
- Discount around the world; 125,000 discount deals in U.S

MCard (U-M): Over 400 discounts with MCard in and around Ann Arbor
# ACCOMMODATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotels/Motels</th>
<th><a href="http://www.hotels.com">www.hotels.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.priceline.com">www.priceline.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.tripadvisor.com">www.tripadvisor.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hostels</th>
<th><a href="http://www.hostels.com">www.hostels.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.hostelworld.com">www.hostelworld.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative Accommodations</th>
<th><a href="http://www.airbnb.com">www.airbnb.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.vrbo.com">www.vrbo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.couchsurfing.com">www.couchsurfing.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.reserveamerica.com/">https://www.reserveamerica.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TRIPS

Sailing

White Water Rafting

Hiking

Sponsored by U-M Recreation Sports:
www.recsports.umich.edu/outdooradv/trips/
ORGANIZED TRIPS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

In addition to the IC:

- CCI: Center for Campus and Involvement
- Alternative Spring Break

Check out event listings here: www.internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/social-events.html
OTHER HELPFUL WEBSITES

International Center
Lonely Planet
Frommer’s North America
DrVoyageur
Trip Advisor
Other Workshops to Attend

- “Driving in the U.S.”
- “Getting Around Ann Arbor and Personal Safety”
- “Things to do in Ann Arbor”
- “How to Buy A Used Car”
SAFE TRAVELS!

Please complete our evaluation!
You will receive an email with a link to complete.

Thank you!