

A group of five young adults are gathered around a table outdoors, clinking champagne glasses in a toast. They are all smiling and appear to be at a wedding or a formal celebration. The setting is lush with greenery and white flowers. The text "Share the Journey" is overlaid in a white script font on the right side of the image.

Share the Journey

8 Benefits of Traveling with Friends

Hi there!

Thank you so much for downloading my guide to traveling with friends. I put this together to help you embark on an enriching group getaway with those you care about most! Everyone wants inspiration for that next big vacation, right?! As a group travel specialist, I've found that group trips are always more fun when they are centered around your shared passions.



This guide is for you if you long to step outside your daily routines and dive deep into what truly fuels you -- breathtaking experiences and extraordinary destinations, while connecting with the people you share them with. Here's to a vacation that truly excites you!

Share the Journey!

Erin

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- How to decode the benefits of group travel
- Learn how you can reduce travel expenses by traveling with friends
- Insider tips on being a successful group travel leader

Holidays offer you the perfect opportunity to take a break from your hectic schedule and embark on exciting adventures! What better way to enjoy your vacation than with family and friends? Traveling with a group can be extremely rewarding.

Not sure who to travel with? You could organize a family reunion, or an employee incentive trip or how about a vacation with your book club, yoga class, scrapbooking group, or even church or Sunday School class!

Here are some tips to get you started on planning your trip.

#1 Be a Leader



The first step is to be the leader. Every group needs a leader, especially a travel group.

Someone needs to be in charge of making decisions, organizing details, communicating with your travel advisor, etc. Some of these tasks can be delegated to others in the group, but ultimately, someone has to be in charge.

Being a leader can be a lot of work, but very rewarding, and even fun if organizing and coordinating are things you are good at and enjoy doing.

Are you ready to create raving fans through travel? Now's the time to start to generate buzz for your idea!

#2 Choose a Location



... everyone has agreed on.

Just asking 10 people: “Where do you want to go” is likely going to get you at least 10 different answers, if not more. You need to be a little more strategic with your questioning...

Ask probing, follow-up questions. For instance, one member of your group might say New York, and another Paris and another Tokyo, but if you dig deeper into why, it might be because they all dream of visiting a big city. So even though they sound very different at first, the underlying reasons will help you come to a Big City adventure that will make them all happy. You might even drill down further and ask them what it is they like about big cities so that you can be sure that the city you choose fits all their criteria.

When faced with unlimited choices, most people get paralyzed in the decision making process. Start by coming up with a list of 5 - 10 possible destinations and then ask people to rank their favorites from 1 - 5 (or 10, or whatever). Fewer options will make it much easier for people to offer their opinion. Also, maybe some people aren't going to get their first choice, but maybe they will be just as happy with their second or third choice - ranking will help you narrow this down.

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#3 Choose a Theme



...for the group so that everyone shares the same interest for the trip.

One of your first steps in planning a group trip is to decide on a basic theme for your group. Is this a relaxing family reunion with plenty of time for connecting and spending time with each other? Or an adventure trip, active and busy and full of adrenaline? Or a group of art lovers looking for lots of opportunity to explore museums and art studios?

You can probably already guess how choosing a theme can help you narrow down your choice of a destination and activities and make the trip enjoyable for everyone involved. Group travels give you the unique chance to bond with your family and friends, sharing adventures and experiences with one another, making the trip more fun and more memorable.

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#4 Plan a Year Out



Planning travel for groups is often much more complicated than planning travel for one or two people.

Ideally, you will want to start the planning process about a year ahead of time.

Let people know ahead of time that there will be deadlines they will be held to. Failure to make required payments on time may result in a cancellation. You don't want to miss out on all the advantages of your hard work because other group members didn't hold up their end of the deal.

Also... Establish a goal. Make sure you understand how many rooms must be booked in order to accommodate last minute cancellations. Unfortunately, cancellations are a fact of (travel) life. Emergencies come up, people get sick, and people just change their minds.

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#5 Keep Everyone Motivated



...by communicating details frequently.

A big part of the fun of travel is the anticipation. Group travel takes a lot of pre-planning that can seem to drag on and on, and sometimes people lose their enthusiasm. Consider taking advantage of technology and create a private group on Facebook to share information before you trip, and then you can use it to share stores and pictures during and after your trip. You could also create your own hashtag for the event to share images on Twitter and Instagram. #awesomefamilyreunioncruise2021

Of course, if you prefer to hire a travel advisor, expect a private Facebook Group and a custom hashtag for social media image shares will be created just for you.

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#6 It's Cost-Effective



Traveling with a group of family or friends can help you reduce travel expenses since everyone will be sharing the costs of transportation, accommodations, food, and even tour tickets.

It allows you to take advantage of the group rates that most suppliers offer.

There is also added value in perks and amenities available in many situations, such as special tours, happy hours and priority services. Some resorts sometimes set aside a couple of rooms for large groups. In some countries, airport customs agents prioritize group tours so they will not have to wait in long queues.

How is that for an enticing benefit of group travel?!

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#7 Highlight the Inclusions



... and special events planned when sharing the trip details with your friends. Make sure everyone going on the trip understands what's included and what's not included in the price. Share details about budget and how much more money they should plan to have available for what's not included.

You will also want to let them know about special events so that they can be prepared with appropriate wardrobes and anything else they might need to bring along.

Safety: Visiting tourist sites and attractions with a group also reduces risk. And, if you are traveling internationally, doesn't it give a sense of peace knowing you can figure out foreign transportation systems and translate local dialects with the help of your companions?

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#8 Enlist the Help of a Professional



As I said at the beginning, planning group travel is a lot of work. The best part is that you don't have to do it alone. As your Travel Advisor, it's my job to help you organize and coordinate your group travels - and you still get to take advantage of the great perks that come along with being a group leader.

These are only a few of the advantages you can enjoy by travelling with a group... I hope I've demystified group travel and now have you thinking seriously about the opportunity this type of travel affords, from socializing to creating new friendships with people who share your interests and passions.

If you want to learn more about group travel, or you're ready to start planning a trip now - give me a call and let's get started!

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