

# Travel Hacking 101: How to Travel Longer for Less

Follow these steps to mobilize a life of affordable and meaningful travel

## Overall Checklist

- Write out your bucket list. Prioritize the most adventurous items and make a loose timeline to achieve them.
- Open a separate bank account exclusively for travel. Direct deposit 5% of your monthly earnings. Skip Starbucks, pack your lunch, put that spare room on Airbnb, and watch your travel fund grow!
- Become a member of the housesitting community ([annual membership, \\$0-119](#))
- Join free lodging sites and communities: BeWelcome.org, Couchsurfing.org, or EvergreenClub.com (age 50+). Build your profile, go to your town's next meetup, consider hosting other travelers.
- Find room-and-board barter experiences: [WWOOF.net](#) (fees vary), [WorkAway.info](#) (\$29) & [HelpX.net](#) (\$10)
- Get the Charles Schwab debit card. Zero transaction fees with unlimited refunds on third-party ATM fees.
- Download these travel apps: XE currency converter, Maps.me offline GPS, Wunderground weather, Skyscanner flights, Google Translate, Google Voice phone calls, Rome2Rio directions, and TripIt itineraries.
- Consider volunteering with these excellent and affordable organizations: [MovingWorlds.org](#), [VolunteerHQ.com](#), [TheMuskokaFoundation.org](#)
- Follow Travel Blogs: [BootsnAll.com](#), [ThePlanetD.com](#), [NomadicMatt.com](#), [GreenGlobalTravel.com](#)

## Mileage Hacking Checklist

- Check and monitor your credit score for free at [CreditKarma.com](#) or [CreditSesame.com](#)
- Request your full credit report from all three bureaus at [AnnualCreditReport.com](#) (free once per year)
- Correct credit report inaccuracies, remedy any late payments, and close inactive cards. Get your FICO score as high as possible.
- Sign up for reward accounts with the major airlines (one from each of the alliances) and global hotel chains
- Consider signing up for a travel rewards credit card. Our current favorite is the Chase Sapphire Reserve
- Start the process of earning the Southwest Companion Pass in early 2017
- Pay your bills and utilities with a mile-earning credit card. Research "manufactured spending" (advanced)
- Sign up for [Prosper.com/Daily](#) or [Mint.com](#) to watch for unauthorized credit card purchases
- Sign up for [AwardWallet.com](#) (free or \$10 well spent) and link your rewards accounts for easy monitoring
- Follow Mileage Blogs: [MillionMileSecrets.com](#), [ThePointsGuy.com](#), [ViewFromTheWing.BoardingArea.com](#)
- Go explore this beautiful world!!!

SEE COMPLETE RESOURCES HERE: [www.HoneyTrek.com/Smithsonian](http://www.HoneyTrek.com/Smithsonian)

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