

Topic: Travel

Let's get started... If you received a gift of \$5,000 to use for travel, where would you go and what would you do? Would you travel alone or with family or friends?

Background:

In the spring and early summer in the United States, people begin to think about planning summer vacations. Some people stay at home and relax or catch up on special projects around the house, but many people like to travel. In the summer, many Americans will go to different cities, states, or even countries. When people in the United States travel, they often go to another city or state for a vacation. Sometimes, if they have more money, they will travel to another country.

Some people travel by boat, by train, by airplane, by bus, by RV, or by car. Other people like to travel by bicycle, motorcycle, or motor scooter. Still other people like to hike in the mountains, and go camping and backpacking in national or state parks.

The travel industry in the United States includes travel agents, airline companies, rental car companies, hotels, and cruise lines.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- In your native country, do people travel in the summer? Where do they go? Do many people travel to other countries, or do most people travel to other cities inside your country? Tell about some places people in your native country like to visit in the summer.
- In your native country, do people enjoy outdoor vacations (hiking, backpacking or camping)? Are there beautiful nature spots to visit in your native country? Tell about some places people like to visit.
- In your native country, if someone wants to travel to another country, is it easy or difficult? Are there travel agencies in your native country? Are their services expensive or reasonably-priced? Do many people plan their own trips and "book" their own reservations? Do people use the internet to plan vacations? Tell about a vacation you took in your native country, and what you did to plan, make reservations, pay for the trip, and where you went.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

How do you like to travel? Do you like to go with an organized tour group, or do you prefer to travel independently?

When you travel, do you prefer to go somewhere and just relax and rest, or do you prefer to be active (visiting museums, hiking)? Why do you prefer this form of travel?

When you travel, do you prefer to go by airplane, car, train, bus, RV, motorcycle, or another form of transportation? Why do you prefer this mode of transportation?

What kind of research do you do before you take a trip? Do you go to the internet, get brochures from a travel agent, go to AAA, or ask friends and relatives for their recommendations? What is your favorite way to plan for a trip?

Before you travel, do you make any special arrangements for any of the following?

- ❖ Health insurance
- ❖ Weather
- ❖ Languages (take classes, arrange for an interpreter, or buy a dictionary or phrasebook)
- ❖ Secret money belt or money pouch
- ❖ Car maintenance
- ❖ Contact information for possible emergencies
- ❖ Maps
- ❖ Copies of important documents in case of loss or theft
- ❖ Travelers' checks
- ❖ Credit cards
- ❖ Necessary documents (passport, visas, required immunizations; international driver's license)

Have you taken a vacation trip in Washington State that you enjoyed? If yes, tell a partner about the trip. Tell where you went, what you did, how you traveled, how you found out about the place, and what you liked or didn't like about the trip.

Have you taken a vacation trip somewhere in the United States outside of Washington State? If yes, tell a partner about the trip.

Did you ever have a bad experience traveling? Tell about what happened?

What was the best trip you have ever taken? What made it so good?

New words and Idioms: travel, vacation, trip, special projects, RV, motor scooter, camping, backpacking, travel agent, nature spot, "book" a reservation, tour group, form of travel, mode of transportation, brochures, AAA, research, special arrangements, destination, money belt, money pouch, trip, find out (found out).