

**The Guide  
That Every  
Parent  
Needs**



# 8 SIMPLE RULES FOR PICKING A HOLIDAY DESTINATION

***THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY HOLIDAY IS IN THE LOCATION***



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# Introduction

Planning a family vacation can be difficult, but it's a great way to get the family on the same page, looking forward to an enjoyable vacation together.

Family vacations are a great time to bond with the family and forge memorable experiences but the key to a successful family holiday is in the location.

I've followed these rules since 2008 and with family, friends, and even work colleagues, and it hasn't let me down yet.

Here are 8 Simple Rules for Picking a Holiday Destination.

Hopefully, you will find it useful and help you plan your next epic vacation!



# Rule #1: Vacation Time

For me, the duration of your vacation is the most important factor. It directly impacts your budget, the type of holiday, and the travel distance. Are you going for a weekend, 2 weeks or even a month?

For example, a weekend getaway, you won't travel more than 3 hours which means you have more time to spend at your destination. While a 2-week trip or a month means you can stay in multiple places for a few days each and take in the local sights accordingly!

When we went to Switzerland for 14 days, we stayed in 5 cities for 2 or 3 days each. And because of their well-connected transportation system, we occasionally managed day trips to nearby towns.

## Rule #2: Type of Holiday Experience

To have a memorable trip, choose a destination that allows you to have the experiences you enjoy.

- Relaxation or adventure
- Beaches or mountains
- Summer or winter
- Cities or countryside
- Resorts or road trips
- Festivals and culture
- Shopping or food experience
- Luxury, mid-range, or budget



Are you the type of person who likes to sit by the pool all day with a book? Or would this bore you to death? Are there enough child-activities to keep your kids entertained during the entire holiday?

Sit down with other members of your traveling group and discuss your ideas and interests. Memorable trips are those where each member gets to experience something they love.



# Rule #3: Travel Distance to the Holiday Destination

A basic rule of thumb for travelers: the longer it takes to get there, the longer you should spend there. If you spend more time traveling than you do exploring & relaxing, chances are you're not going to come home satisfied with your trip.

I once made that mistake a few years back and I can honestly say it was one of my worst experiences. We decided to do a day trip and ended up having a 12-hour round drive just to spend three hours at our destination. Definitely not worth the effort or time.

Personally I prefer the quickest route to the destination so I can spend the most amount of time at the destination.



# Rule #4: Travel Budget

For most people, this factor tends to be the biggest influencer on their choice of destination. If you are on a strict budget, pick a budget-friendly country. There are hundreds of lists of cheap countries you can look but I suggest compare their currency value to the one you earn in to get a good idea.

If you are going to be spending most of the time away from the hotel, pick a mid-range accommodation which includes the complimentary breakfast. Most travelers eat out every meal, making food one of the biggest day-to-day expenses while traveling. You can cut your travel budget significantly if you're willing to do your own cooking (at least sometimes).

Similarly, you can save some money with your flights, by flying on off-peak days, into alternative airports, and having a layover. It's one way of seeing another destination on the way to your final destination.



# Rule #5: Mode of Travel

If you are traveling internationally, the default choice of travel is flight, however, your final destination may involve – a few flights, a bus ride, a couple of train and tram rides, and then a 20-minute walk. If you are traveling light that may be okay for some but if you got 4 suitcases, 4 carry-on bags, and whatnot, it's a bloody nightmare.

Remember quickest route to the destination is sometimes the best option



# Rule #6: When to Travel

Weather and crowds play an important role when you plan your trip. For your chosen destination, do you know when the high season and low season is? Check the weather as well. You may not want to visit Jamaica during the hurricane season or Dubai in the middle of summer!





# Rule #7: The Language Barrier

A few years ago we visited the eastern European country of Georgia for 3 days. Beautiful country, great food and very welcoming, friendly people. Being a former soviet state, the large majority spoke Georgian and Russian, while a very tiny minority spoke English. For the first day, we tried to go on our own but in the end, we had to hire a local tour guide to help with the translation. It was just impossible to go anywhere or do anything without knowing the local language.

So when you are looking at a destination, make sure they speak your language or consider it as an opportunity to learn a new language. A crash course specifically!



# Rules #8: Follow your Friends

Another way to help filter down your destination choices is to follow your friends. You may have friends who live in different cities, states, or even countries, go visit them. The bonus is you may save on accommodation if they let you stay with them or at the very least you have a local tour guide!

Picking a holiday destination is part of the enjoyment of the vacation itself. It builds excitement and anticipation, allowing you and your children to dream about the great time you're going to have. Even more importantly, a well-planned family vacation is going to go more smoothly and be more enjoyable than one that was largely unplanned. Keep in mind everyone's expectations and the activities they enjoy, and you'll be better able to find a holiday destination that makes everyone happy.





# Resources

Here's a list of resources mentioned throughout this guide and more:

## Accommodation

**Booking.com** is #1 online booking platform for accommodations around the world, with over 900K options, zero booking fees and content in 40 languages. <https://booking.com>

**Hotels.com** is a leading provider of hotel accommodation worldwide, offering reservation services through its own network of localized websites. <https://hotels.com>

**Agoda**'s accommodation network contains over two million accommodation properties, including apartments, villas, homes and hotels. <https://agoda.com>

## Flights

**JetRadar** is one of the largest online search engines for flights all over the world. <https://www.jetradar.com>

**Kayak** gives your users cheap prices for flights. <https://kayak.com>

**Google Flights** finds cheap flights in seconds and helps explore destinations on a map. <https://google.com/flights>

**Skyscanner** consistently finds me the cheapest flights out there. <https://www.skyscanner.com>

## Travel Insurance

**World Nomads** is available to people from 140 countries. <https://www.worldnomads.com>

**IMGlobal** offers a full line of international medical insurance, trip cancellation and stop loss programs. <https://www.imglobal.com>

**Insure My Trip** is the best place for you to quote, compare and buy travel insurance your upcoming trip. <https://www.insuremytrip.com>





## Visa Application

**iVisa** is an easy, traveler-friendly application process that is usually 100% online and with clear instructions. <https://www.ivisa.com>

## Car Rentals

**Rental Cars** is an international car rental booking service presented all over the world. <https://www.rentalcars.com>

**Discover Cars** is a car rental comparison website. <https://www.discovercarhire.com>

## Other Transportation

**12Go** is Asia is one of the largest online platform which offers online booking of ground and water transport services. <https://12go.asia>

**Trainline** is Europe's leading train and coach app. <https://www.thetrainline.com>

**Rail Europe** is the #1 Distributor of train tickets & rail passes. <https://www.raileurope.com>

**Kiwitaxi** allows you to book taxi transfers from the airports and cities worldwide. <https://kiwitaxi.com>

## Attractions

**Get Your Guide** is used for booking tours, excursions, and other travel activities around the world. <https://www.getyourguide.com>

**Viator** a TripAdvisor company, is the world's leading resource for researching, finding and booking the best travel experiences worldwide. <https://www.viator.com>

**Musement** contains the world's most exciting tickets, tours and activities, anywhere in the world! <https://www.musement.com>

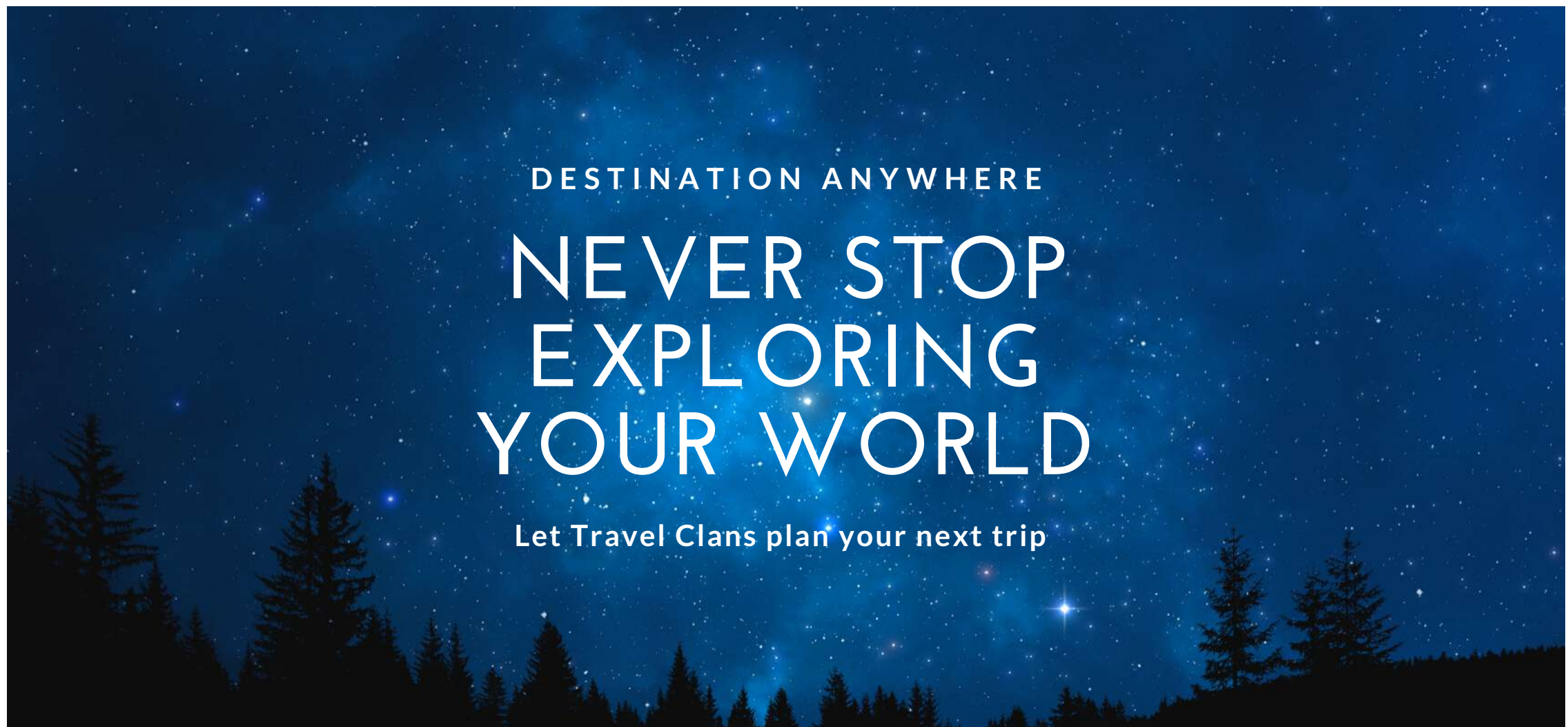
**Tiqets** offer directly bookable, instantly available and completely mobile tickets for museums, shows, and attractions all over the world. <https://www.tiqets.com>

**GoCity** is the perfect option for travelers who plan on visiting multiple attractions and sights. <https://gocity.com>





# Travel Planning Made Simple



We LOVE to go on a family holiday. Mentally or physically, we want to escape to other places. We want “to explore strange new worlds, seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no man has gone before”. And then return home to the familiar, the predictable, and the secure, before taking off again!

As a parent, I know that planning a family holiday can be challenging to say the least! Finding the ideal destination, the perfect hotel or the most convenient flights takes time and effort – which you may not have to spare!

After years of visiting numerous places around the world, memorable travel adventures, and comprehensive travel planning experiences, I want to provide you with a seamless and incredible journey with the perfect travel planner!

## How does it work?

Simply receive your detailed travel planner in 3 simple steps;

- Choose from the Basic, Standard, and Premium travel itinerary plan.
- Provide your travel requirements and basic info of the member(s) traveling
- Receive your complete personalized travel itinerary with all your travel details within 3–5 working days.





## What do you get?

- A personalized travel planner in PDF format which includes flights, accommodations, sightseeing, restaurants recommendations as well as travel insurance & car rental quotes.
- An excel sheet with all your bookings information and budget
- A detailed travel checklist that covers all vacation types

## FAQs

### How would you know my travel preferences?

After paying for the itinerary, you will receive an email from me with a set of 7 simple questions. The more information you provide the better it is for me to plan your trip and create your personalized itinerary.

### How many flight options will you provide?

I will provide three options based on the flight budget provided. The first option will always be the shortest route.

### How many sightseeing options will you provide?

It will vary depending on the day's schedule but the goal is to get to do One or Two per day. Unlike a travel agency, I want you to enjoy the experience and not rush through it. If you have a preference on how you want to spend your day please let me know.

### How many accommodation options will you provide?

Three options will be provided for each city based on your preferences and overall budget for accommodations.

**SWEET! THERE ME THERE**







## TC's Locker

— IT'S A TRAVEL THING —

Traveling should be enjoyable, safe and comfortable and why not look good while doing it? And, that's why I've have created my own online Travel Store!

All the designs are inspired by my love for travel and t-shirts. However, we have not limited the choices to just t-shirts. The apparel line includes T-shirts to Tank Tops, Hoodys to Sweatshirts and V-necks to scoop-necks. We have options for men, women, and children.

You can also find accessories such as mobile phone covers, beach towels, mugs, and bags. Don't worry we haven't forgotten about home decor for you crazy travel lovers!

There are numerous designs available in multiple colors and sizes to choose from in our travel store!

### THE ROAD TRIP COLLECTION



### FOR A GOOD CAUSE



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