

students and bums

a person meets on the road are friendly and harmless.

The best rule of thumb to follow is this: smile, be outgoing, make friends. When you're just next to being broke you can't afford to chase typical tourist rainbows. So emphasis might as well be placed on meeting people.

When tired of hitch-hiking, lifts can be arranged through consulting destination boxes posted in universities, coffee houses, and Hostels. They are good sources of travelling companions and afford quick access to a destination for the price of shared gas.

It never hurts to cultivate the friendship of a local to aid you in your explorings. Not only can he act as a guide, pointing out some of the cheaper places to visit, but he may also offer you a place to spend the night.

Food. You'll need it every day. Try out the discount vegetable markets, especially at day's end when you can get damaged or old produce at rates even you can afford. Student cafeterias cater to any traveller with a student's card (again, try out your nearest student travel office). Youth Hostels often let people work for meals, and panhandling is sometimes a profitable enterprise. (It's usually illegal, though. Just keep moving from day to day and play dumb if ever confronted.)

Musical abilities greatly enhance panhandling proceeds, but it's a different kind of game when you start offering onlookers more than just your voice.

Mooch off relatives, no matter how distant the connection. Mooch off friend's relatives, too. It's always nice to meet new people, isn't it?

Don't neglect backs of restaurants and bakeries for cheap and often end-of-the-day leftovers. Orchards in season are fair game, and German breweries are always good for tours followed by free cheese, crackers, and some of the world's best beer.

Sleeping can be a problem — parks and ditches are taboo if you get caught. They're also great for getting robbed in. In case of theft, head straight for the nearest Canadian embassy, they can sometimes get your money back. Just remember to always, always, carry your passport with you everywhere.

Often it will be fellow travellers rather than natives who will rob you. I'm reminded of one fellow who stuffed his wad under a mattress in a Youth Hostel then left to take a leak.

Five minutes later the money and his passport were gone.

Traveller's checks are always your safest bet. Stash them in several different places, preferably on your body. Use a money belt or try pinning your main wad to the inside of your underwear. That way nothing short of rape will reveal your secret.

Getting back to sleeping; tenting is expensive in urban areas. If tent you must, it's best to wait till dusk and set up in some secluded place off the road where you're not likely to be disturbed by police, robbers, or perverts. When Hostelling, remember that once Hostel doors are locked for the night you're out for the duration.

As for clothing, one change is all anyone needs. And just carry your clothes into the shower whenever you are so lucky as to find one. Laundromats are never around when they're needed most.

One thing to be prepared for — shoestring travellers get shitted on a lot. Girls get hustled, hitching gets slow, and it's

sometimes hard to remain dignified while shamelessly mooching meals from drivers.

Perhaps at this point it's only fair to remind readers that much more information can be obtained from sources other than *The Gateway*. A couple of books worth their weight in paper are "Lets Go Europe", printed by Harvard Press, and Ken Walsh's "Guide to Hitchhiking".

The bookstore has a good selection of travel material, but why not get into the proper spirit? The University library's information desk directs you to suitable library books — free of charge.

Should you ever actually find yourself standing, in the rain hungry, cold, and feeling as lonely as a three legged dog. You will ask yourself what in God's name you're doing there when you could be back at university drinking beer and putting off studies. A such times, it helps to look at the situation this way: even if the bad times outnumber the good, at least you'll have some great stories to tell your grandchildren.

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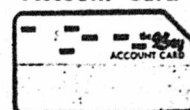


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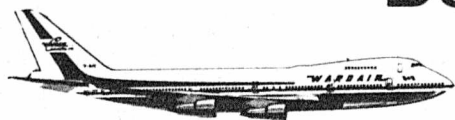
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and a Book; Suggest LET'S GO EUROPE, designed for young people, written by the Harvard Student Agencies, a Dutton Publication about \$5.00. This gives you information on travel throughout Europe, places to stay Budget restaurants, etc. A must for every young person travelling to Europe or Britain on a shoestring Budget.

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