

Travel

Travel is the movement of people between distant geographical locations. Travel can be done by foot, bicycle, automobile, train, boat, bus, airplane, ship or other means, with or without luggage, and can be one way or round trip.^[1] Travel can also include relatively short stays between successive movements, as in the case of tourism.

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An image taken on a backpacking trip in Europe.



Train travel – Passengers on a train on a bridge of the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, between Mettupalayam and Ootacamund, in Tamil Nadu, India

Etymology

The origin of the word "travel" is most likely lost to history. The term "travel" may originate from the Old French word *travail*, which means 'work'.^[2] According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, the first known use of the word *travel* was in the 14th century. It also states that the word comes from Middle English *travaillen*, *travelen* (which means to torment, labor, strive, journey) and earlier from Old French *travailler* (which means to work strenuously, toil). In English we still occasionally use the words "travail", which means struggle. According to Simon Winchester in his book *The Best Travelers' Tales (2004)*, the words "travel" and "travail" both share an even more ancient root: a Roman instrument of torture called the *tripalium* (in Latin it means "three stakes", as in to impale). This link may reflect the extreme difficulty of travel in ancient times. Travel in modern times may or may not be much easier depending upon the destination. Travel to Mount Everest, the Amazon rainforest, extreme tourism, and adventure travel are more difficult forms of travel. Travel can also be more difficult depending on the method of travel, such as by bus, cruise ship, or even by bullock cart.^[3]

Purpose and motivation

Reasons for traveling include recreation,^[4] holidays,^[5] tourism^[4] or vacationing,^[4] research travel,^[4] the gathering of information, visiting people, volunteer travel for charity, migration to begin life somewhere else, religious pilgrimages^[4] and mission trips, business travel,^[4] trade,^[4] commuting, and other reasons, such as to

obtain health care^[4] or waging or fleeing war or for the enjoyment of traveling. Traveller's may use human-powered transport such as walking or bicycling; or vehicles, such as public transport, automobiles, trains, ferries, boats, cruise ships and airplanes.

Motives for travel include:

- Pleasure^[6]
- Relaxation
- Discovery and exploration^[4]
- Intercultural communications^[4]
- Taking personal time for building interpersonal relationships.
- Avoiding stress^[7]
- Forming memories ^[8]

History of travel

Travel dates back to antiquity where wealthy Greeks and Romans would travel for leisure to their summer homes and villas in cities such as Pompeii and Baiae.^[9] While early travel tended to be slower, more dangerous, and more dominated by trade and migration, cultural and technological advances over many years have tended to mean that travel has become easier and more accessible.^[10] Mankind has come a long way in transportation since Christopher Columbus sailed to the new world from Spain in 1492, an expedition which took over 10 weeks to arrive at the final destination; to the 21st century where aircraft allow travel from Spain to the United States overnight.

Travel in the Middle Ages offered hardships and challenges, however, it was important to the economy and to society. The wholesale sector depended (for example) on merchants dealing with/through caravans or sea-voyagers, end-user retailing often demanded the services of many itinerant peddlers wandering from village to hamlet, gyrovagues (Wandering Monks) and wandering friars brought theology and pastoral support to neglected areas, traveling minstrels practiced the never-ending tour, and armies ranged far and wide in various crusades and in sundry other wars.^[9] Pilgrimages were common in both the European and Islamic world and involved streams of travelers both locally (Canterbury Tales-style) and internationally.^[11]

In the late 16th century it became fashionable for young European aristocrats and wealthy upper-class men to travel to significant European cities as part of their education in the arts and literature. This was known as the Grand Tour, it included cities such as London, Paris, Venice, Florence, and Rome. However, The French Revolution brought with it the end of the Grand Tour.^[9]

Travel by water often provided more comfort and speed than land-travel, at least until the advent of a network of railways in the 19th century. Travel for the purpose of tourism is reported to have started around this time when people began to travel for fun as travel was no longer a hard and challenging task. This was capitalized on by people like Thomas Cook selling tourism packages where trains and hotels were booked together.^[12] Airships and airplanes took over much of the role of long-distance surface travel in the 20th century, notably after the Second World War where there was a surplus of both aircraft and pilots.^[9] Indeed, air travel has become so ubiquitous in the 21st century that one woman, Alexis Alford, visited all 196 countries before the age of 21.^[13]

Geographic types

Travel may be local, regional, national (domestic) or international. In some countries, non-local internal travel may require an internal passport, while international travel typically requires a passport and visa. Tours are a common type of travel. Examples of travel tours are expedition cruises,^[14] small group tours,^[15] and river cruises.^[16]

Travel safety

Authorities emphasize the importance of taking precautions to ensure travel safety.^[17] When traveling abroad, the odds favor a safe and incident-free trip, however, travelers can be subject to difficulties, crime and violence.^[18] Some safety considerations include being aware of one's surroundings,^[17] avoiding being the target of a crime,^[17] leaving copies of one's passport and itinerary information with trusted people,^[17] obtaining medical insurance valid in the country being visited^[17] and registering with one's national embassy when arriving in a foreign country.^[17] Many countries do not recognize drivers' licenses from other countries; however most countries accept international driving permits.^[19] Automobile insurance policies issued in one's own country are often invalid in foreign countries, and it is often a requirement to obtain temporary auto insurance valid in the country being visited.^[19] It is also advisable to become oriented with the driving rules and -regulations of destination countries.^[19] Wearing a seat belt is highly advisable for safety reasons; many countries have penalties for violating seatbelt laws.^[19]

There are three main statistics which may be used to compare the safety of various forms of travel (based on a DETR survey in October 2000):^[20]

Mode	Deaths per billion		
	Journeys	Hours	Kilometers
<u>Bus</u>	4.3	11.1	0.4
<u>Rail</u>	20	30	0.6
<u>Air</u>	117	30.8	0.05
<u>Ship</u>	90	50	2.6
<u>Van</u>	20	60	1.2
<u>Car</u>	40	130	3.1
<u>Walking</u>	40	220	54
<u>Bicycle</u>	170	550	45
<u>Motorcycle</u>	1640	4840	109

See also

- Environmental impact of aviation
- Layover



Travelers in a British Airways 747 airplane. Air travel is a common means of transport.



MS Skania ferry in the port of Szczecin

- [List of travelers](#)
- [Mode of transport](#)
- [Recreational travel](#)
- [Science tourism](#)
- [The Negro Motorist Green Book](#)
- [Transport](#)

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External links

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