



FEBRUARY TIEG PRESENTATION

“TRAVEL YOUR WAY”

“To travel is to take a journey into yourself.” - Danny Kaye

On Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 11am we have a presentation by World Traveler and Garden Photographer Barbara Murray on “Travel Your Way” at the Manito Park Meeting Room, 4 West 21st Ave (stone building east of the Gaiser Conservatory). Refreshments will be served. Free to TIEG members and guests.

Solo travelling can be daunting, but it shouldn't be. Travelling on your own can be an amazing experience. After all, you're your own boss, and the only person you need to worry about is yourself.

People who have never traveled alone often describe their first solo trip as an almost religious experience. To take in new surroundings unfiltered by the prejudices, tastes or preferences of a traveling companion can be heady stuff. Traveling alone gives you the chance to indulge yourself fully.

Of course, single travel has its perils too--such as safety concerns, loneliness and the dreaded single supplement. But a little preparation and common sense can save you money and get you through the rough spots.

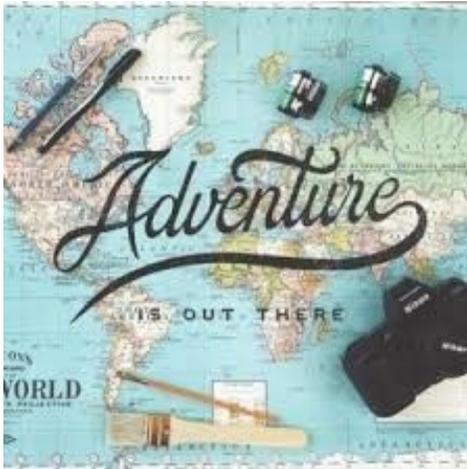
Solo travel can be the ultimate in self-indulgence; you can rest when you want and pour it on when you're feeling ambitious. Another benefit is that your mistakes are your own, and your triumphs all the more exciting. There's no worrying that your insistence on trekking all the way across town to a museum that was closed ruined your partner's day; it's your own day to salvage or chalk up to a learning experience.

What's more, you're more receptive to new experiences, more likely to be looking outwards than focused on a companion. You're also more approachable, so it's easier to meet new people. Most of the friends I have made overseas have been made when I have been travelling alone.

At the end of the day the hardest thing about travelling solo is making the decision to go. Once you're on your way, you'll feel great about it. I know I still get a buzz when I head off on my own. Just try it--you will too. World traveler Barbara Murray is going to share with you some of her tips on how you can “Travel Your Way.”



“Stuff your eyes with wonder, live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories.” - Ray Bradbury



SOLO TRAVEL

“Everyone smiles in the same language.” - George Carlin

Solo travel at its best is deliciously self-indulgent: eat whatever and whenever you want, spend as long or as little as you like in a place, skip famous sights, sign up for the super cheesy. It’s a time where the only compromises you have to make are with yourself. People traveling by themselves will find they are, in some cases, pushing themselves a little harder, in others, giving themselves a little more slack. Here are the best tips and tricks for social butterflies and shrinking violets alike.

It’s not only the pace of solo travel that differs so greatly from journeys with a companion or large group. People traveling alone must also do the work that might otherwise have been shared: planning the trip, remembering the hotel room key, keeping track of addresses and hours, rescheduling when circumstances change. But for all the extra effort, there’s no one to disappoint if you get something wrong. You are on vacation--forgive yourself. Take a nap. Order a midday ice cream.

Those who travel alone often make themselves more available for local discovery and connection. Sometimes it’s intentional, other times it isn’t. By yourself, you may be more likely to try out those rusty language skills or strike up a conversation with a stranger. You’ll be surprised who you may meet. Exchange English-language novels with a Welsh couple staying in the same Corfu campground. Share a meal in Athens with woman traveling from Korea and communicate by hand gestures and smiles: neither of you speaks the other’s, nor the local, language. Try something new.

My top tips for solo travelers are:

1. Don’t be too hard on yourself while on the road. Travel is hard work. The occasional treat like a night in a nice hotel, a trip to the cinema, a shopping trip or a nice meal will recharge your batteries. As long as you stick to your budget 90% of the time, it shouldn’t do too much damage.
2. Make the most of your trip; you’ll only get one chance to travel the world. Don’t be limited by being a solo female traveler. You can do anything you want to.
3. Be friendly and open but not too much so--take your time getting to know people, until you’re certain you can trust them. It’s a hard balance to get right, but can be learned.
4. Do the trip your way. Don’t let anyone tell you what makes a worthwhile gap year, they’re all worthwhile! Take your straighteners if you want to--as long as you have room in your pack! It’s your trip, no one else’s!
5. Do a first trial pack at least a week before you go. You may well end up in tears as you find you can’t do your pack up--or can’t lift it! You’ll need to do several re-packs and re-thinks. Be strict, but allow yourself one or two luxuries. And yes, it is a good idea to leave space in your pack for shopping purposes. It relieves a lot of stress not to struggle to do up your pack each time you move on. - Cara Grayling

“We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open.” – Jawaharial Nehru

