

ESCAPE
PLAN

WORKING ON THE ROAD

THE UNCONVENTIONAL GUIDE TO FULL-TIME FREEDOM



Sneak
Preview

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Introduction:

Where do you want to work?

Life—and work—do exist beyond the cubicle. Do you want to escape the harsh winters and have the freedom to work in warm places? Maybe you'd like to take lunch and step out your door into a culturally fascinating locale. How about working shoulder to shoulder with people from all over the world? Or maybe you want a bit of everything, with a business that is as portable as you are.

This Unconventional Guide was conceived in Europe, written in the Caribbean, and edited in Peru. There are more and more people working on the road, with businesses and jobs that allow them to live a flexible (and often amazingly inexpensive) life. You'll meet a handful of them in this guide; people who are living—and working—around the world.

Can You Work on the Road?

Working on the road is not reserved for the super-wealthy or hippy backpackers.

Most people who work on the road are surprisingly “normal.” It's about lifestyle freedom and creativity; i.e., you design the life of your dreams, and find a way to make it all financially sustainable. It incorporates different modalities of travel, work, and business; no two situations are identical.

It's not quite as difficult to do as you might think; there's a wide range of possibilities for how, where, and when you can work on the road.

Are you one of these people?

- ▶ You crave a career sabbatical, but still want or need some form of work and income to keep you occupied and the bills paid.
- ▶ You are a successful entrepreneur, wondering if it's possible to run your business—with less overhead—from abroad.
- ▶ You are a gap year student, looking to travel the world for a year or two after school and earn some money along the way.
- ▶ You are a retiree who isn't ready to retire; instead you're looking to "re-engage" the world (and/or supplement a meager pension).
- ▶ Or you might be a lost soul, wondering why your inner voice keeps telling you something is amiss and that there's so much more out there in the world for you. (A lot of people—myself formerly included—fall into this category).

What You'll Learn

In this guide, you'll get the knowledge, ideas, and tools you need to create your own work on the road. You'll learn about the huge variety of location independent businesses and jobs you can work from anywhere in the world, with little more than a laptop and an internet connection.

If computers aren't your thing, you'll also learn about the variety of jobs you can do "on the ground" while traveling around the world.

We'll put some numbers to these fancy ideas, with detailed costs associated with living on the road for individuals,

couples, and families who all work and live full-time while traveling.

We'll explore some of the challenges with the lifestyle, and you'll learn from others who have stumbled their own way up the learning curve so you don't have to.

You'll get information on how to embark on the travel lifestyle, and some specific details regarding the logistics involved in taking your work on the road, like finances and visas.

We'll break down all the tools you need to live an easy and secure life on the road, manage your finances from abroad, and run a business smoothly.

Travel and Work

It's worth differentiating a travel lifestyle from working on the road. Throughout this guide the two are intertwined, since many people design careers that allow them to work on the road so they can sample long-term travel or expat lifestyles. This guide will help you discover ways to work on the road, as well as prepare for and embrace a travel-oriented lifestyle.

Remember however that a career allowing you to work on the road doesn't mean you must travel full-time. You have the freedom to work both abroad, as well as in your home town.

It's not all about being a computer geek either; we'll discuss various ways you can work abroad without having a location

independent business or job.

The more you understand the possibilities available to you, the further your imagination will roam. I didn't think it was possible to live in a Caribbean island paradise, or Peru, or New Zealand, or any of the dozens of places I've lived—working a few hours a day when I so chose and enjoying life for less money than I ever spent to live in Toronto, but I've been doing it since 2007. It's possible.

Single? Married With Children? Retired? Doesn't Matter

- Dyanne is a woman “of a certain age” (she admits to six or so decades) who took her small pension to Southeast Asia, where she teaches English as a second language part-time and travels extensively.
- Rachel and Greg have traveled the world full-time since 2007...with their five (now six!) children.
- Samuel and his girlfriend Audrey have been nomadic for over five years, teaching English in South Korea and traveling between contracts.
- Sean is a full-time telecommuting employee for a company in Melbourne, but he's never been to Melbourne. Instead he has lived and worked in North and South America the entire time he's been working with his company.
- Jonathan is a wildlife illustrator with a venerable client list who has been living location independently with his wife Lea and (now) two children since 2007.
- Tiffany and Chris have been

professional travelers for the last 10 years, getting various jobs around the world.

- Grasya has developed a location independent career from her home in the Philippines, and recently relocated to Thailand for a while.
- SoulTravelers3 are a family of three who travel full-time and live for under \$25,000/year. The daughter is trilingual as a result of attending schools in Spain and China, and she even has her own location independent business as a language tutor.
- Deb and her husband are in their 40s and travel full-time, landing jobs along the way as they go with a decent set of transferable skills, networking, and research.
- Earl has traveled full-time since 1999, working on cruise ships, teaching English, and leading small group tours, in addition to running his travel blog for the last five years.
- Jeannie got laid off in 2010 and took the opportunity to travel the world and curate her writing skills. Years later she's still going strong; for two years she complemented her location independent writing income by teaching English in China.

You're going to hear from these people and many more who have built a life of working from the road throughout this guide. They have inspiring stories and lots of good advice and experience to draw upon. The diversity of this collection of stories proves that there are no rules or limits. Those who work from the road are of varying backgrounds, ages, nationalities, and have different careers.

So if you have a niggling excuse in the back of your head saying “I can’t” for whatever reason, put it aside for now, open your mind, and see what inspires you!

If I can do it, You can too

In 2006 I chose to completely redesign my life. I sold everything I owned (including a busy financial planning practice) to pursue my dreams of traveling full-time. I went from financial tycoon to aspiring writer/volunteer goat milker in less than six months—quite a dramatic transition! I didn’t have a location independent business at the time (or even an inkling of one), but I did have a small monthly income from the sale of my business to support me for the first two years.

I quickly learned the first essential component in working on the road and traveling in a financially sustainable way: how to live and travel on a budget, by doing things like volunteering in trade for my accommodation. Concurrently, I developed a location independent business to replace my two-year income stream when it ran out. I knew there was money to be made online with freelance writing; a perfect fit with my lifelong

penchant for the written word.

But it took time. I could have done it better.

When I started, there wasn’t much information or support available to help me build a location independent business, restructure my life, and travel. Although I’m far from the first person to travel full-time with a location independent business, I was on the leading edge of this movement when I started. So I stumbled my way around learning to be a good writer, develop a website, market online, and find income opportunities.

My efforts were far from scientific, but with passion and commitment the process was ultimately enjoyable and very rewarding.

Luckily, you don’t have to make the same mistakes as I did, nor do you need to take so long to get your own nomadic lifestyle up and running. With this guide, you’ll leverage the experience of myself and many others who have made a successful go of working on the road in a variety of ways. And I’ll give you the ideas, resources, and tools to get you going.

Let’s dig in and explore some ways for you to work on the road. Luckily, there’s no shortage of options, especially if you’re creative and passionate.