

TRAVELING ON YOUR OWN

Travel within Your Host Country

Exploring your host country should be your first travel priority. Although Paris, Munich, and other famous cities are certainly worth a visit, discovering the sights, traditions, and people of Britain will contribute greatly to your program. Throughout Britain you will find sites that will interest and intrigue you. Pick up a good travel guide and read it before you leave. Festivals and other special events are excellent ways to learn many facets of British culture. You can get information by contacting the British Tourist Authority. Short trips in and around Edinburgh will be rewarding and inexpensive. Take advantage of excursions sponsored through local agencies and organizations.

Many students travel in Britain by train. A variety of travel packages and discounts are available, including BritRail and Eurail.

Travel to Other Countries

Travel in Europe is facilitated by a number of special programs and discounts for students. Those listed below are most commonly used. You should consider your budget, time constraints, personal priorities, language skills, and energy before setting off on a tour. The whirlwind "doing Europe" trip of 14 countries in 14 days is not recommended. Again, take time to discover and explore any location you visit, and read as much as you can beforehand. With a little effort you can be an intelligent, informed traveler and you will profit from your journeys much more than a typical tourist.

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

The ISIC entitles you to certain discounts on airfares, train tickets, and ferry crossings and reduced or free admission to museums, theatres and various cultural events. This card is available in the Office of International Education/Programs and costs \$22.

The American Youth Hostel (AYH)

The AYH card entitles you to spend the night at youth hostels around the world for a minimal fee per night. Hostel accommodations are dormitory style. You are provided with a bed, mattress and blankets. "Sheet-sleep" sacks or sleeping bags are required. Most hostels are located in the suburbs or outlying areas of major cities and are not always conveniently located. Also, there are curfews at most hostels. You can find more information about obtaining the card at: <http://www.hiayh.org>

Youth Hostel Cards may also be purchased at most youth hostels in Europe where they are less expensive.

Note: ISIC and AYH cards purchased before September 1 are only good through December of that same calendar year.