

# UDLS

(UnDistinguished Lecture Series)

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Traveling Around the World

(as a student)

# Why?

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- In one word: Experiences
- Languages & Cultures
- Adventures
- Perspective
- FOOD
- Photography
- Just for the hell of it!

# Where?

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- Pretty much anywhere that comes to mind
- My favorites so far
  - Italy: Tuscany
  - Switzerland
  - Amsterdam
  - Prague
  - Kerala, Goa
- Wishlist: Spain, South France, Iceland, New Zealand, NE India ...



# How?

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- Three main things
  - Time
  - Money
  - Enthusiasm

# But I am a Grad Student!

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- Bunch up your travel with home visits
  - Saves money, time & effort
- Conferences
  - Researchers' excuse to travel and socialize
  - Go a few days early
  - Visit close by places
  - Professors pay for your travel!

# Budget Travel

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- Destinations
  - Book for destinations along the way
  - Be flexible
    - Keep a list of travel destinations
- Traveling to multiple locations
  - Travel local
  - Book long travels (especially trains) in advance!
- Transit
  - Day transit pass & other deals
  - Weight the odds!

# Budget Travel

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- Hotels
  - Book hostels in advance
    - On the spot hotel search is expensive!
  - Train travel during night
    - European trains are especially comfortable
  - Food
    - Many hostels offer shared kitchens
    - Use WikiTravel and other resources such as Frommers
    - [Ask locals!](#)
  - CouchSurfing (Dead?), AirBnB
  - [Stay with Friends](#)



# Visa constraints

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- VISA waived?
  - London transit 😊
- US Visa => Visa waived
  - Mexico and other Central American destinations
- Canadian Citizenship => Visa waived
  - Most of Europe and much more
- Dubai, Hong Kong: Get Visa on landing

# Travel Tips

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- Travel Light
  - You do not need too many clothes!
  - Small travel kit
    - Always have one ready with small toothpaste etc
    - Pick up stuff from conference hotels!
- Photography
  - Budget your lenses
  - Please don't carry a full tripod!
  - Put that camera away
  - Keep smartphone or some small camera handy

# Travel Tips

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- Language
  - Know basic phrases
  - Get a guide book!
  - Start conversation with “Do you know English?” in the local language.
  - Learn along the way
  - Converse with locals in local language.
  - Understand gestures

# Travel Tips

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- Traffic Rules
  - Understand traffic situations (before you get there)
  - Car renting?
    - Most countries allow home country licenses. Figure it out.
- Local help
  - CouchSurfing
  - Friends
    - Tip: Friends of friends are your friends!
      - Much bigger circle

# Travel Tips

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- Food
  - Check local help tip above
  - Use smartphones
    - Free WiFis are not impossible to find
  - Eat local
  - Splurge sometimes

# Planning travels

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- Plan in advance!
  - Read about destination from multiple guidebooks
  - Check local help tip above
  - Plan using info on CouchSurfing and forums
  - Full city view
- Be flexible
  - You WILL get tired sometimes
  - You WILL lose your way (hopefully only occasionally)
  - You DO NOT have to visit every place
    - Give yourself time to enjoy the city

# Planning Travel

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- Weather
  - Plan according to it
  - Prepare for it
- Local Festivals

# Travel Quotes

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- The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page. - Saint Augustine
- I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move. - Robert Louis Stevenson
- सैर कर दुनिया की गाफिल, जिंदगानी फिर कहाँ  
ज़िन्दगी गर फिर मिली तो, नौजवानी फिर कहाँ