

# Build a Travel Plan in 4 Easy Steps



Making travel plans is always exciting, as you discover new places and imagine the experiences in store. But if you're not a seasoned traveller, it can also be overwhelming, with a dizzying array of choices in front of you. If you're new to travel planning, don't worry - here are 4 easy steps to help you plan the perfect trip.

## Step 1

**Plan your itinerary** : As they say, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. The first crucial step is planning your itinerary. Here's a handy checklist:

- What is the purpose of your visit? To relax / party / rejuvenate etc.
- What is your destination: Pick a landscape or experience - e.g. mountains / seaside / house-boating / safaris etc. - and then narrow down
- Finalise your travel dates: Are you going in the peak season or off-season?
- Select your mode of travel: Flight / train / road-trip / bus / cruise
- Pick the accommodation: Downtown hotel / seaside resort / countryside retreat etc.
- Travelling partners: Solo / with friends / with family?

## Step 2

**Get your funds in order**: Once you've planned your itinerary, it'll be easier to nail down the expenses - and start arranging the funds.

### 1. Budget for

- Accommodation costs
- Travel costs
- Activities and dining
- Shopping and souvenirs

### 2. Sourcing travel funds

**Personal savings** : Once you make a budget, try to stick to it and avoid overspending, especially if you are funding your trip through your savings.

**Start an SIP**: SIP investments can help you build a healthy fund for a memorable vacation. Choose between equity and debt mutual funds depending on your requirement.

**Personal loan**: Personal loans can help fund last-minute trips. However, as these are unsecured loans, the interest rate is considerably high, so use them only as a fallback option.

### Equity Mutual Fund

- Your vacation is 5-10 years away
- You have a high risk appetite
- Your travel budget exceeds your savings significantly

### Debt Mutual Funds

- Your vacation is in the next 1-2 years
- You have a low risk appetite
- You have already accumulated most of your travel budget money



### 3. Consider travel insurance

There's always the risk that something might go wrong when traveling - your bags might get lost, or you might fall ill, or the trip itself might be cancelled for some reason. You'll want to ensure you don't lose the money spent on the trip or incur huge expenses in a foreign country. If you want to travel worry-free, it's important to get travel insurance. Choose one or more of these travel insurance covers:



**Medical Insurance**

Covers your medical expenses in a foreign country (remember, your existing health insurance policy may not be valid abroad).



**Luggage Protection**

Covers the cost of stolen or damaged luggage during your trip.



**Trip Insurance**

Covers the cost of last-minute changes or trip cancellations, so you are not left out of pocket.

### 4. Some additional money-related tips

- Try to get a credit card with travel rewards, for upgrades and deals
- Check the current exchange rates for precise budgeting
- Look for off-season discounts and deals to save money
- Book flight tickets and accommodation in advance so they'll be cheaper



## Step 3

**Make your bookings**: Once your budget is sorted, it's time to make your bookings. Ideally, do it in this order:

- Book your flight/train tickets
- Book your accommodation
- Book key activities in advance so they don't fill up

## Step 4

**Sort out your visa and other formalities** :

Several popular foreign destinations do not require a visa from Indian travellers or offer a visa on arrival facility<sup>[1]</sup>. But others, like the US and the EU, have extensive visa requirements. Here are some tips for managing this critical part of your travel plan:

- Check passport validity if travelling abroad (minimum 6 months validity mandatory)
- Understand the exact visa requirements for your destination before applying
- Purchase travel insurance for enhanced financial security



**All set to go? Here are some last-minute tips:**



Pack light

Arrange data/internet access in advance, and find a good roaming plan

Download helpful apps (Google Maps, Google Translate etc.)

Inform your bank/card provider about your travel plans

Know the dos and don'ts for your destination

Make copies of your travel documents

**Let it be a happy journey**

**You travel to relax and have fun - so stressing over your travel plan defeats the very purpose of travel. Follow these simple steps to simplify your travel plans and make that dream vacation a reality.**

Source: <https://www.mea.gov.in/visa-facility-for-india-nationals-menu.htm>

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