

Wander Divas Travel Companion Guide

WHAT TO ASK A POTENTIAL ROOMMATE BEFORE
YOU GET HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD



There are some important things to consider when looking for a travel companion. One of the first questions to ask yourself is “Why do you want to find a travel companion?” Is it solely a financial arrangement to reduce the cost of your trip? Are you looking for a roommate to be with the entire trip, or are you more independent? As guilt has no place on vacation, it is important to establish your goal so that both travelers are on the same page.

There is nothing worse than getting half way around the world only to discover that your roommate wears the one perfume that makes you ill, or that she is a night owl and you go to bed early. These are just two examples and may seem trivial, but if you think about it, it's important to know what your companion's likes and dislikes are.

Having a clear understanding of this is key to having an amazing travel experience. While you may not be an exact match on every point, having the discussion will make it easier to get along and understand each other.

The following questions may seem awkward to ask, but they open the door to communication and discussion, and even some laughter.

1. What is your goal in looking for a travel companion:
 - A. Someone to share your room expenses only
 - B. Someone to share accommodations, meals, excursions and the like
 - C. A little of both

2. When traveling, which experiences do you most enjoy?
 - A. Museums, churches, art galleries and other cultural activities
 - B. People to people cultural interactions
 - C. Adventure: nature, hiking, biking, boating, snorkeling and exploring
 - D. Other _____

3. What type of shopping do you enjoy while on vacation?
 - A. Boutique and high end
 - B. Bargain shopping
 - C. Souvenir shopping
 - D. I don't like to shop

4. What type of food do you like to eat?

- A. Meat, chicken, seafood
- B. Vegan/ Vegetarian
- C. Gourmet food
- D. Regional specialties

5. While on vacation do you prefer

- A. Fine dining
- B. Casual dining
- C. Early bird specials
- D. Dine early or later?

6. After a typical day on vacation which do you most prefer to do?

- A. Dancing
- B. Listening to music or regional entertainment
- C. Spa treatments
- D. Resting in your room
- E. Other_____

7. While on vacation or out on the town, do you enjoy:

- A. Cocktails
- B. Beer/Wine
- C. Coffee or tea

8. Accommodations questions

- A. Are you a smoker or nonsmoker?
- B. Do you snore? (Everyone should have ear plugs just in case!)
- C. Do you prefer the room to be cool, or do you like it warm?
- D. Do you stay up late reading/watching TV or lights out early?
- E. Would it bother you if your roommate stayed out late, if you choose to stay in?

9. Do you have any special needs?

- A. Are you physically challenged in any way that would affect the ability for you or your travel companion to enjoy the trip?
- B. Do you use any sleep aids, such as a CPAP machine?
- C. Do you have any dietary requirements that need special attention?

10. Check your own character, and then ask your potential companion:

A. Are you a social person who doesn't mind being with people all the time, or do you need short breaks or some alone time along the way?

B. Do you enjoy meeting other people and learning about their cultures?

C. Do you have a good sense of humor?

D. How are you at handling stressful situations?

One other point, that perhaps is one of the most important to discuss, is the DEAL BREAKER. What would be a deal breaker for you? What characteristic would make your trip hard to enjoy? If your potential travel companion has it, keep looking. Travel is a gift of time that you can never return so don't be willing to settle.

These are important questions to ask, and you may come up with a few important ones yourself. In any case, while traveling with a roommate, it is also important to:

◆ Clean up after yourselves in the bathroom and sink areas and be mindful that you each have enough time to get ready for the day.

- ◆ Shower early in the morning or the night before.
- ◆ Keep your belongings neat and in the suitcase, not all over the room. This can be a challenge but once you get the knack of it, it really helps to keep you organized.
- ◆ Let your roommate know what your plans are if you are not going to be together, and what time she can reasonably expect you back.
- ◆ Watch out for each other.
- ◆ Hygiene is important-daily showers are a must.

Talk about these issues. They are important. If there are things that you enjoy that will annoy a potential roommate, it is better to know it now than when the trip begins. Respect each other's privacy to the best of your ability, taking into consideration the sometimes small quarters. Be courteous and be on time. No one likes to continually wait for others. Give each other a break during the trip. Allow for some alone time. To the best of your ability, try to forgive little annoyances.

Traveling with a companion can be rewarding and fulfilling. Just be sure she/he is the right one before starting out on your adventure.

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