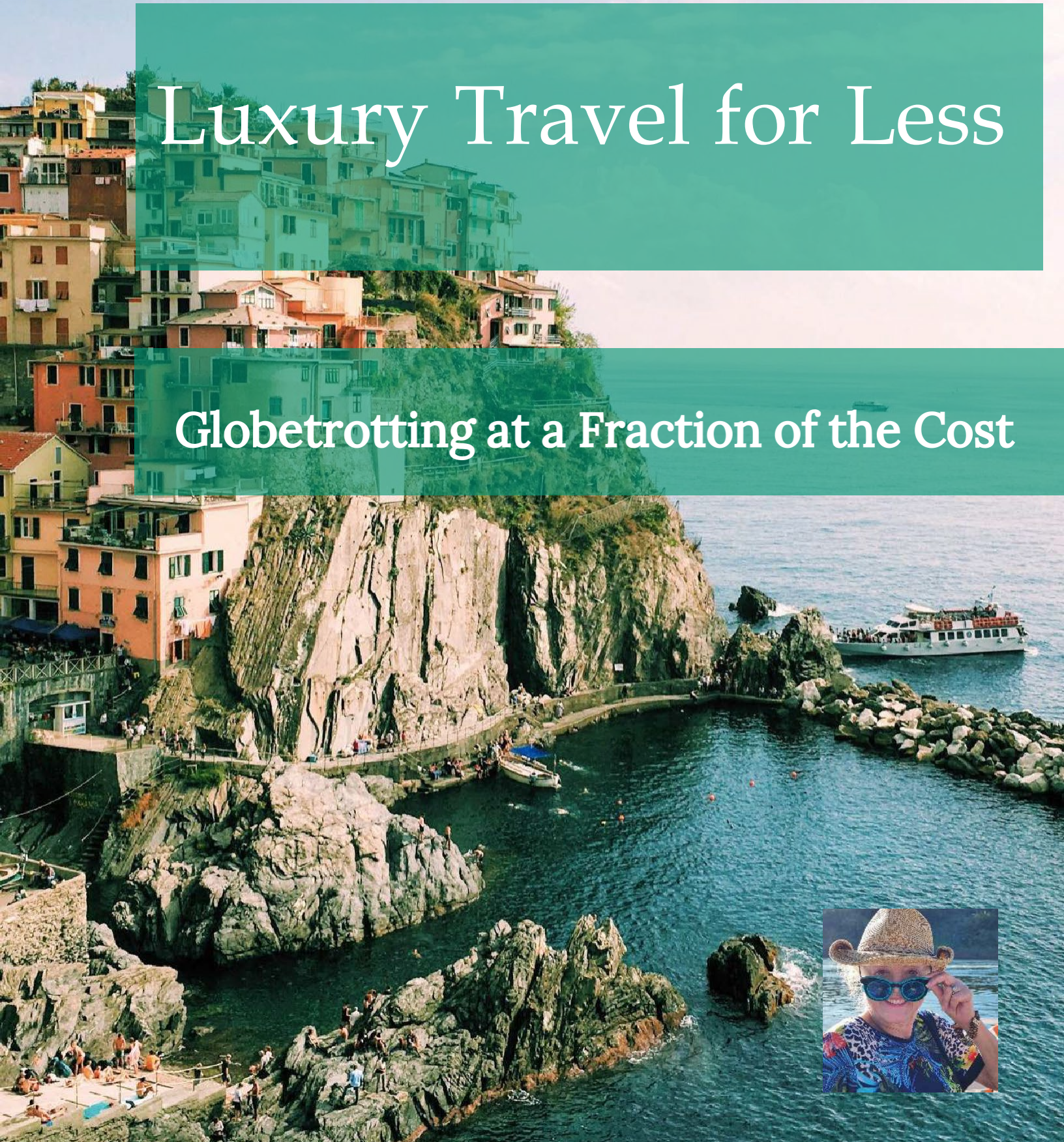


Luxury Travel for Less

Globetrotting at a Fraction of the Cost



The Ageless Traveler: AgelessTraveler.com

Luxury Travel for Less: Globetrotting at a Fraction of the Cost

Chapter 1:

How to Get The Most Luxury for Less and Make Globetrotting a Reality

"Using the strategies in this book will help you overcome your money barriers and prove that you don't need to be wealthy to experience incredible destinations. With simple tips and a little planning, you can save on travel expenses while enjoying each destination's best experiences."

— Adriane Berg, Founder of The Ageless Traveler



I get it.

As a 75+ woman who has traveled since I was eleven and made it to 110 countries, I never want to stop traveling. I know that barriers may emerge in the form of my health or the health of my travel companions that I cannot control. One barrier which can be controlled is the cost of travel.

Yet, money is a significant reason why people say they cannot travel. The cost of travel is a recurring concern on a fixed income, especially because we deserve and demand greater luxury as we age.

At The Ageless Traveler, we aim to empower you to travel extensively and make your dream adventures a reality. So, this eBook is designed to help you afford that dream.

Retirement is the perfect time to embark on new adventures, discover new cultures, and broaden your horizons. In the following pages, you will have the tools, tips, and tricks to travel affordably without compromising quality. We want to inspire you to explore the world, meet new people, and make the most of this exciting chapter in your life.

But there is one drawback...

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Most readers enjoy a "How To Book", but never take action.

I have been writing how-to books since 1980. Check out Amazon under my name, and you will see a dozen of my books from big-name publishers. I will be blunt. The drawback with How-To Books is that people read them, get distracted, and never act. Has that ever happened to you? It has to me. I once paid \$1000 for a course on YouTube marketing and never used the tools I learned. I have a friend who says, "Knowing how is the booby prize." Doing is the prize.

So, through the years, I have figured out how to motivate readers (and myself).

PLEASE READ THIS: To be truly effective in helping you travel luxuriously for less, you need to be personally empowered to act and bring the incredible rewards of travel into your life for REAL! Here's how we will accomplish that together:

At the end of this Book You will find materials: checklists, a journal page for clarity, and a final 3-step Plan for creating your Luxury Travel for Less journal. **Complete the materials.** Once you do, Luxury Travel for Less will come naturally and you will be ready to enjoy the experiences that enrich and excite your life.

A Brief Overview of the Simple Strategies for Luxury Travel for Less



First, we will dispel some myths about luxury travel. If you are like me, a comfortable bed, good food, fascinating sites, art, and music are the basics. But after a certain age, I need more. I want stress-free travel, good company with people I want to know when I get home, respect from those who serve me, slow-paced travel when I need it, and fast-paced travel when I want it.

Second, you will discover my 3-Step Plan for Luxury Travel for Less

Finally, you will get dozens of straightforward strategies I use to travel extensively worldwide.

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Chapter 2: Common Misconceptions about Affordable Luxury Travel

Contrary to popular belief, affordable luxury travel is not only possible but can also be an enriching experience.

Unfortunately, several misconceptions can discourage people over 55 or those with tight budgets from indulging in such experiences. It's important to challenge these misconceptions and realize that luxury travel is not out of reach.

Misconception 1: Affordable luxury travel means hours of searching on your computer.

With our hints and tips, we cut your search time at least in half. From high-end hotels to glamorous vacation rentals, numerous options provide a LUXURY stay without breaking the bank. Additionally, exploring alternative transportation options, such as private river cruises and unique forms of transportation (think tuk tuks with a private driver in Thailand), can help you save money as you travel like a Pasha.

Misconception 2: Senior discounts are only for the budget-minded.

On the contrary, at the highest levels, many destinations offer discounts and special packages for seniors. Here's one example. I asked a concierge for the best seats for the play Book of Mormon at a renowned regional theatre in Chicago. He gave me a free ticket to the 5th-row center. Why? He was told to "pack the house" and offer the tickets to seniors if he could. There are plenty of surprise opportunities to travel affordably when you are open to it.

Joining travel communities can provide you with insights and tips from experienced travelers as you make international friends. Of course, one of those communities is our own [The Ageless Traveler Facebook Salon](#), which we invite you to join free of charge; another is [FREEBIRDS](#), which I will introduce later.

Misconception 3: Affordable luxury travel means compromise.

There are countless ways to enjoy the best a destination offers without compromise. Exploring local markets and street food and taking advantage of discounts and coupons can help you experience the essence of a place without spending a fortune. Embracing the local culture, interacting with locals, and seeking off-the-beaten-path adventures can also lead to unique and memorable experiences that mainstream tourists often overlook.

Many luxury resorts and cruise lines cater specifically to older adults, offering amenities such as wellness programs, spa treatments, and cultural excursions. By choosing destinations and accommodations that cater to your interests and needs, you can enjoy a luxurious and rejuvenating travel experience.

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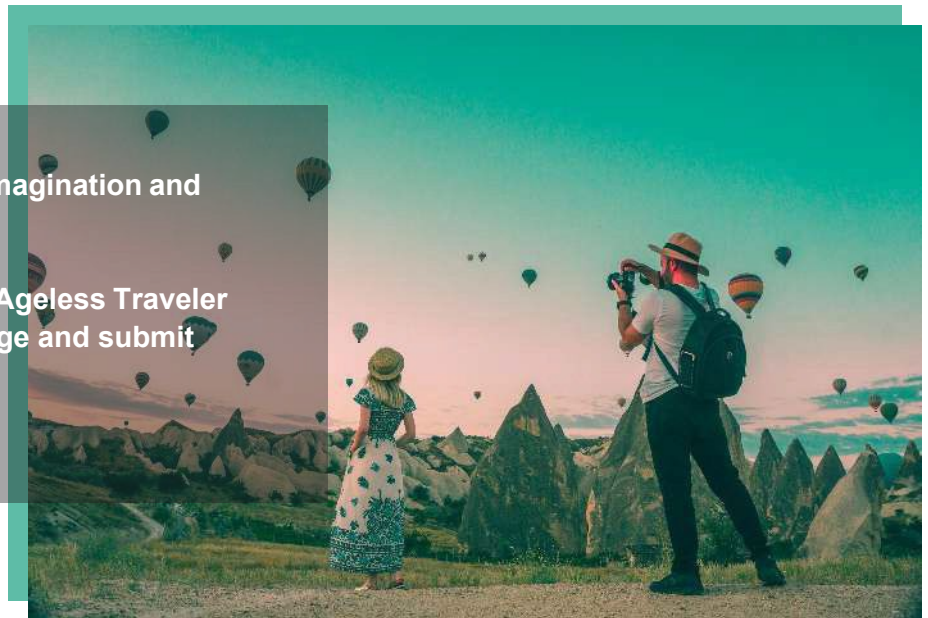
Misconception 4: Affordable luxury travel means excess and hanging out with wealthy people who may not be your type.

Some people believe that luxury travel is all about extravagance and excess. Not at All. You may have travel companions who see luxury as a negative and even criticize you for pursuing it as a goal. Here's my advice. Ask them to take one trip with you and experience the ease of travel in the luxury category. Explain to them that luxury is not solely defined by price but rather by the quality of experiences and the joy travel brings without stress.

In short, affordable luxury travel is not a distant dream or a substitute but the same travel enjoyed by the wealthy in your style. It is an attainable goal for anyone wanting to explore the world.

Do YOU have imagination and like to write?

Check out [The Ageless Traveler Write for Us](#) page and submit your article.



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Chapter 3: Planning-A Three-Step Luxury for Less Travel Plan

I started traveling through a summer program to Amsterdam, Paris, Yemen, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and round-trip New York City when I was eleven.

So, I have experienced changes in tourism for 65 years. Today, we have access to abundant resources and technologies that make traveling easier, more affordable, and more enjoyable than ever. One block to using these powerful tools is an unfamiliarity with technology, search engines, and an old view of how travel plans are made and paid for. We can reminisce about Europe on 5 Dollars Day or American Express Traveler's, Checks; BUT LET'S GET WITH IT! Use the many websites you find in this book. If you are not tech-savvy, ask for assistance from friends or relatives or take a course at your local senior center to get you up to speed.

Key improvements between traveling today and yesterday that I use in making travel plans:



Accessibility of information. Websites and apps provide a wealth of information on budget-friendly accommodations, cheap flights, and local attractions. Social media platforms allow travelers to connect with like-minded individuals who share their passion for travel, providing valuable insights and recommendations.



Alternative Accommodations. In the past, hotels were often the only option for travelers. Today, options like Airbnb, hostels, and house-sitting have emerged as alternatives. These options save money and provide a more immersive and authentic travel experience.



New Transportation Options. Short-flight and budget airlines, discounted train tickets, and ridesharing services have revolutionized how we move from one destination to another. Today, exploring multiple cities and countries is possible without breaking the bank.

Using all these strategies, here is my Real-Life, THREE-STEP Luxury for Less travel plan.

Step 1: Make a rough plan with the beginning and end dates and other essential interim dates.

To get the most for my dollar, I am FLEXIBLE concerning where and when I want to travel. But I set out a few requirements BEFORE I START PLANNING. For example, in most years, I want to attend the Edinburgh Festival or the Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England. They take place in August. That's perfect for me as I live in hot Palm Springs, and the summer months are the time to travel. With these requirements in mind, I have the end and beginning dates (usually June 15 to September 15th) to plan my adventures. If you want to escape the cold, your dates will be in winter. If the date of travel is unimportant to you, even better. Just look for the deals.

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To complete Step 1, look at cruise ship itineraries, river cruises, tour packages, and airfare deals that fit the time limit. I will show you how to do the research later. I found a Princess cruise for a reasonable price from Southampton, England, through Cornwall, around the British Islands, to Iceland and Greenland, and back to London. I often use the airfare deals offered by cruise ships. In this case, I had several flight dates and choices. I decided to fly to Madrid before the Festivals and then leave for home from Berlin. As you will read later, many cruises offer discounted or two-for-one air travel deals, allowing you to travel two or three weeks before and after the disembarkation dates.

Step 2-I Book the airlines and cruises only. I do not book food, hotels, or sightseeing.

Here is how my latest Step 2 travel itinerary for July and August.

Sunday, July 21 LAX to Madrid-BOOKED

Monday, July 21-Thursday, July 26 Madrid and Central Spain OR Andorra OR
Canary Islands-Not Booked

Friday, July 27-Friday, August 2, Madrid or Other to London-not booked.

Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4, London-not booked

Sunday, August 4 to Monday, August 5, London to Buxton-car-not booked

Monday, August 5 to Sunday, August 11 Buxton-GILBERT & SULLIVAN FESTIVAL-
TICKETS BOUGHT

Monday, August 12 to Tuesday, August 13, Buxton to Southampton-car not booked

Tuesday, August 13 to Thursday, August 29 Cruise: Southampton, Ireland, Iceland,
Greenland, Southampton--BOOKED

Thursday, August 29 to Monday, Southampton to Berlin-transportation not
booked.

Monday, September 9, Berlin to LAX via NY- BOOKED

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My Step 2 Rule is: BOOK it when you see it.

Early planning is a crucial strategy for Luxury Travel for Less. Booking flights and cruises well ahead of time can help secure better deals. Additionally, planning activities, tours, and transportation in advance allows you to take advantage of early bird discounts and avoid last-minute price hikes. So once the air and big ticket items like cruises are booked, go on to Step 3 for early booking of the less major (but important) elements of your trip.

Step 3-Put Meat on the Bones

Now that you have the dates, airfares (trains, buses, and car travel are roughly the same process as the airline deals that work to start and finish your trip.) (If you see a great land package, take it). I call these anchors, and they dictate the rest of the planning.

Now it's time to fill in the blanks, like the exact itinerary, the hotels, sightseeing, and minor transportation. We explore savings on these throughout the remainder of this book. You get the idea...like putting an outfit together or buying a home. Take care of the big stuff, like a dress or a house, then look at the shoes or the furniture.

That's It!

Wait a minute, Adriane. You didn't make a budget.

Yes, that's right. When I start the planning process, I go "Naked With a Checkbook." I look at the best of what I want and choose among the many good deals.

Planning without a budget may seem counterintuitive, but it is a liberating and exciting approach to discovering Luxury Travel for Less.

When budgeting for travel, many individuals are accustomed to meticulously planning every aspect of their trip, from accommodation to meals and activities. While this can effectively keep expenses in check, it may also limit the spontaneity and serendipity that often make travel so thrilling. By embracing the mindset of traveling "naked with a checkbook," you open yourself up to new possibilities and unexpected adventures.

Traveling without a strict budget allows you to be more flexible with your choices. You can take advantage of last-minute deals and discounts, seize opportunities that arise, and adapt your plans as you go along. This approach empowers you to make decisions based on your preferences and the experiences you truly desire rather than being constrained by a predetermined budget.

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Moreover, as seasoned travelers, you have accumulated a wealth of knowledge and skills that enable you to make informed decisions. You already have an intuitive sense of what you can spend, just like you know when you are overeating.

It is important to note that traveling without a budget doesn't mean being careless with your finances. Understanding your financial limitations and ensuring you have enough funds to cover your basic needs is essential. Additionally, having an emergency fund is crucial to provide a safety net in case unexpected expenses arise.



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Chapter 4: How To Research Affordable Luxury Travel Options

When it comes to planning a trip, finding affordable luxury travel options can seem like an impossible task. However, with proper research and knowledge, you can uncover hidden gems that offer both luxury and affordability.

There's good news and bad news about travel research. The Good news is we have lots of choices because of the internet. The bad news is we also have many choices because of the internet.

You need to narrow the search to make sense of the research options. Here is how:

Consider the time of year.

Traveling during the off-peak seasons can significantly reduce costs. Popular tourist destinations often have lower prices and fewer crowds during these periods, allowing you to experience luxury without breaking the bank. Additionally, being flexible with your travel dates can open opportunities for discounted rates and exclusive offers.

Use booking apps.

Websites like [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com), [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com), [HomeAway.com](https://www.homeaway.com), [hotels.com](https://www.hotels.com), and [HotelTonight](https://www.hoteltonight.com) can help you find affordable luxury accommodation that suits your preferences. In booking accommodations, consider alternatives to traditional hotels like vacation rentals, boutique hotels, bed and breakfasts. These alternatives often provide luxurious digs at a lower cost especially for grandparent or friend reunion travel, than individual hotel rooms.

Calculate the currency exchange rate.

Use a [currency exchange rate](#) calculator. Look for countries where your local currency has a higher value, as this can make luxury experiences more affordable.

Travel to countries and states where the general cost of living is less than you usually experience at home.

Popular destinations such as Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America often offer excellent value for money, allowing you to indulge in luxury experiences without overspending.

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Visit walkable cities and save on transportation costs.

We love to walk, and it is very healthy. Find walkable cities listed at [50MostWalkableCities](#) or rent bicycles. ([find 80,000 bikes in 1000 locations](#)) Using a biking directory like [Go4Bikes](#), can save money and provide a unique destination experience.

Find a travel community.

Websites like [TripAdvisor](#), [Lonely Planet](#), and [travel blogs for mature travelers](#), and of course The Ageless Traveler Stories [travel blogs](#) (which you can write for-see our website editorial policy), can provide valuable insights from fellow travelers who have experienced affordable luxury in various destinations. Engaging with these communities can help you discover hidden gems, local hotspots, and exclusive discounts that can enhance your travel experience without straining your budget.

Use travel comparison websites and apps.

These platforms aggregate data from various airlines, hotels, and travel agencies to provide the best options for your desired destination. Websites such as [Kayak](#), [Skyscanner](#), and [Expedia](#) are user-friendly and allow you to compare prices, accommodations, and flight options in one place. Additionally, many of these platforms offer exclusive deals and discounts only available through their website or app. For example, the [Tripit](#) app offers a search tool that shows you the transportation options available to you. It will also show you the estimated costs and travel times for each option.

Rideshare.

Ridesharing apps like [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#) are well known. But did you know that many cities have [bike-sharing programs or electric scooter rentals](#), which can be an affordable and fun way to explore your destination?

Lastly, take advantage of [airline loyalty programs](#) and [travel reward credit cards](#).

Many airlines offer frequent flyer programs that allow you to accumulate points or miles every time you travel. These points can later be redeemed for discounted or even free flights. Similarly, travel reward credit cards offer sign-up bonuses, points for every dollar spent, and exclusive perks such as free checked bags or airport lounge access.

Let them track you--If you research travel, enough deals will find you. Algorithms are very good at spotting what you are looking for look. So, when you search on Google, YouTube, or any other search engine, use words like luxury travel discounts and cruising discounts. In that case, the algorithms get the idea you are looking for luxury for less and start alerting you to their deals. The more precise and descriptive, the closer the offers get to what you want.

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Chapter 5: Luxury Travel for Less-Transportation

#1. Luxury Travel for Less Airfare

TOP TIP

Use airlines like Morocco and Turkish Airlines that offer free stops. It gives you another place to see for a few days at no extra cost.

For example, I always stay in Istanbul on my way to most European cities or Israel at no extra charge and for less than a direct flight. I recently flew from Amsterdam to LA via Casablanca and spent an action-packed three days in Morocco for \$711 with luggage. I saved about a third of a direct flight and saw Marrakesh and its souks.

Early-Bird Deals: Airlines offer lower prices for tickets booked several months before the departure date.

Consider flying on weekdays or during off-peak seasons when demand is lower.

Watch airline fares when you are not traveling; you will understand how they charge. For example, Spirit is often cheapest on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday flights. I often fly very early in the morning to get the best price.

Utilize Flight Comparison Websites

Skyscanner, Kayak, and Google Flights provide a comprehensive overview of available flights, helping you find the cheapest options quickly and easily. Then, go to the airline Directly and book if the price is the same as the lowest app fare. You often get better treatment from a direct booking if you need to change after booking.

Sign Up for Fare Alerts

Check mistaken airline fares through alerts provided by online travel agencies like KAYAK and Hopper. Hopper partnered with Capital One on its portal so that you can set up alerts there. Dedicated mistaken airfare sites like Straight To The Points and Secret Flying can also help you find great deals.

Consider Alternate Airports

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When planning your trip, consider flying to or from alternate airports near your destination. Smaller airports often have lower operating costs, resulting in cheaper flights. Additionally, exploring nearby airports can present opportunities for new and exciting travel experiences. I use Stansted, Luton, London City instead of Gatwick and Heathrow when traveling to London.

Take Advantage of Travel Rewards Programs

Joining [travel rewards programs](#), offered by airlines, credit cards, and online travel agencies, can help you accumulate points and enjoy discounts on future flights. These programs often provide exclusive offers, priority boarding, and free checked bags, allowing you to maximize your savings while traveling.

#2 Luxury Travel for Less Trains and Buses

In the USA, [trains](#) and [buses](#) not only give you the best deals for seniors but can be a way of lifelong travel. The accessibility factor is very high in the US and any EU country. Less so in Asia, but one of my best train trips was overnight from Hanoi to Hoi Ann in Vietnam. Why? Because I met the locals and traveled as they did. I also relished my 36-hour Amtrack trip from LA to the Washington State Cascades, some of the loveliest scenery in the world, or the [Canadian Rockies](#) train. Easy adventures and immersive experiences (like train dining cars) are a luxury to me.

I like the Flexibility and Convenience of hotels near a European train station. [British Rail](#) is a favorite, with assistance every step of the way, including cross-country itineraries, making the journey part of the experience. I loved traveling from London to Edinburgh on the night train and seeing the Castel lit up as I opened my eyes after a night's sleep. Consider a [Eurail Pass](#). At last glance, a seven-day pass for one month (\$282) is suitable for visiting six to eight destinations, while you can go to nine to 11 destinations with a 10-day-in-two-month pass (\$333).

#3. Luxury Travel for Less Car Rentals and Local Transportation

TOP TIP:

[If you drop off the car at the pickup point, local, small companies are usually cheaper. If dropping off at a different location from pickup, the big chains usually have the best deals.](#)

Local Drivers: Hiring a local driver at specific destinations can provide a unique and luxurious way to explore. Ensure you have a translation app for communication. I have taken cabs in Jordan to see the Lawrence of Arabi train, tuk-tuks in Kuala Lumpur to see Junk Street and cabs on several Caribbean Islands. Many cities in Paraguay, Rio De Janeiro, and other sites have full sightseeing days with low-cost private chauffeurs. Have an itinerary for the driver.

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Research and compare prices: Before booking a rental car or local transportation, [research different providers](#) and compare prices. Look for discount codes or coupons that can be applied to your rental car or local transportation. Many companies offer special promotions for senior travelers, (5-20% off) so don't hesitate to ask if they have any available discounts.

Check for hidden fees: Before booking, ask about fees such as insurance charges, drop-off charges, or additional driver fees.

#4. Luxury Travel for less Cruise Ships, River Boats, Barges and Ferries

TOP TIP

Bidding Upgrades. After you book a cruise, you will receive an email if a bid is possible. Cruise ship websites tell you the lowest bid they consider fair or possible. Make the **LOWEST** bid or one slightly higher. I have gotten outside and inside to balcony and balcony suit upgrades, usually as much as a two-level boost. Watch higher gratuities. There are no guarantees of an upgrade, so make sure you like the cabin you select. out for the inability to bid on wheelchair-accessible cabins or hidden extra charges on high-level cabins like

Boats and ships with daily offshore experiences are a convenient way to see the world. Because there is so much to do on a ship, it makes it easy for travel companions who are less active to have fulfilling sea days while you wander out for adventure. Cruise ships are designed to attract the mature crowd and will cater to your food restrictions. Always make friends with the dining room's food manager and ensure you give them instructions.

Watch for [Repositioning Cruises](#) and [off-peak season](#) offers. Repositioning cruises occur when a cruise is finished, and the ship needs to go back to a destination to start the route again. Read [Cruise Critic](#), like the bible, to be familiar with ships and accommodation levels.

Guaranteed Cabins: [Guarantee cabin bookings](#) assure only a stateroom within the selected category, potentially offering an upgrade. The assigned cabin is disclosed close to departure, often weeks or days before departure. The risk ...is that you may end up with undesirable cabins due to peculiar shapes, proximity to noise, or inconvenient elevator access." Each cruise line works differently. For example, Royal Caribbean and Seabourn offer guaranteed cabins at a saving, so you get a deal even without an upgrade. Crystal, Disney, and Holland America only pay off if you get the upgrade.

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River Boats

TOP TIP

European Waterways offers a unique and luxurious way to explore Europe and the UK. Visit: <https://www.europeanwaterways.com/>

Imagine floating through picturesque canals and rivers aboard a beautifully appointed barge, where every detail is designed for comfort and elegance. This is the very definition of luxury as The Ageless Traveler defines it: ease, comfort, beauty, service.

There are four crew members aboard for eight passengers! It's the epitome of luxury travel for less, providing boutique experiences that include gourmet dining, personalized service, and excursions to historic sites and charming villages along the route. European Waterways is excellent value at the same price or less than luxury river cruises, with more individual, exclusive amenities. The best value is to hire the barge for an eight-person friends and family experience.

Whether meandering through the French countryside, exploring the Scottish Highlands, or discovering the cultural gems of Italy, European Waterways offers a leisurely pace to savor Europe's beauty without compromising on quality or style. Ideal for travelers seeking a blend of relaxation and cultural immersion. It is the perfect journey for The Ageless Traveler with some mobility or culinary restrictions as well as for the most active and enthusiastic "culture vulture."

They give you a slow and satisfying journey with good food, sightseeing, and the ability to travel at different levels of abilities. Take advantage of [luxury cruise loyalty programs](#) for the best deals.

Ferries

Here are my favorite Ferry Adventures:

1. **Edgewater to NYC.** Connecting the village-like Edgewater, New Jersey, to the bustling metropolis of New York City, this ferry ride offers stunning views of the Manhattan skyline. Prices for a one-way ticket typically range from \$9 to \$15, depending on the time of day and whether you purchase tickets online or in person. For schedules and ticket information, check out the [NY Waterway website](#).

Adventure Tip: Take the ferry during sunset for a magical experience as the city lights sparkle against the darkening sky.

2. **Greece to Albania Ferry: A Crossroads of Cultures**

Venture across the Adriatic Sea on a ferry from Greece to Albania for an enriching journey through two distinct cultures. The ferry ride typically departs from Igoumenitsa, Greece, and arrives in the picturesque port city of Saranda, Albania. Prices for this scenic route start at around €20 to €30 for a one-way ticket. Visit the [ANEK Lines](#) or [Ionian Seaways](#) websites for up-to-date schedules and ticket information.

Adventure Tip: Explore the ancient ruins of [Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) just a short drive from Saranda.

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3. Puget Sound Ferry: Navigating the Emerald Waters of the Pacific Northwest

Discover the unparalleled beauty of the Pacific Northwest with a ferry ride across Puget Sound in Washington State. Connecting cities like Seattle and Bainbridge Island, the Puget Sound ferry offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and lush landscapes. Ticket prices vary depending on the route and time, with fares starting around \$8.50 for a one-way trip. Check the [Washington State Ferries](#) website for schedules and reservations.

Adventure Tip: Watch for marine wildlife, including seals, eagles, and, if you're lucky, orcas!

4. Newfoundland, Canada Ferry: A Maritime Voyage to the Eastern Edge

Embark on a maritime adventure to Newfoundland, Canada, with a ferry ride from North Sydney, Nova Scotia. The journey takes you across the Cabot Strait, providing a unique perspective of the rugged Newfoundland coastline. Prices for a one-way ticket range from \$30 to \$50 and reservations can be made through the [Marine Atlantic](#) website.

Adventure Tip: [Explore Gros Morne National Park](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stunning fjords and dramatic landscapes.

5. Halifax, Canada Ferry: A Harbor Cruise with a Historical Twist

Experience Halifax, Nova Scotia's rich maritime history, with a ferry ride across the harbor. The ferry connects Halifax to Dartmouth and provides stunning views of the city skyline and historical landmarks. Ticket prices are affordable, typically ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.00 for a one-way trip. Visit [Parks Canada](#) for schedules and additional information.

Adventure Tip: Visit the [Halifax Waterfront](#) for a stroll along the boardwalk, exploring shops, restaurants, and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Canal Boats and Freighters

Here are my favorite Canal Boat Adventures

1. The Erie Canal, USA: A Historic Waterway Adventure

The Erie Canal, often called the "Gateway to the West," stretches 363 miles across New York, connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. Traveling as a passenger on a canal boat along this historic waterway is a journey through time, with opportunities to witness picturesque landscapes, charming small towns, and historic landmarks.

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Costs: A canal boat cruise on the [Erie Canal](#) can vary depending on the duration and amenities provided. On average, a week-long cruise might range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per person, including meals and onboard accommodation.

Accommodations: Canal boats typically offer cozy cabins with en-suite bathrooms, providing a comfortable and intimate setting. Passengers can enjoy communal spaces, open-air decks, and common areas to socialize with fellow travelers. The slower pace allows for a relaxed exploration of the canal's surroundings.

2. Transatlantic Freighters: Crossing Oceans on Cargo Ships

For those seeking a more adventurous and unconventional way to traverse the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean, passenger freighters provide a unique experience. Several shipping companies offer transatlantic journeys for passengers, allowing them to witness the rhythm of life at sea.

Costs: [Crossing the Atlantic on a freighter](#) can range from \$100 to \$150 per day, depending on the shipping line and route. The journey can take 10 to 30 days, offering a leisurely and immersive experience.

Accommodations: Freighters are equipped with comfortable cabins, often resembling hotel rooms, complete with private bathrooms and windows that provide breathtaking views of the open sea. Passengers can enjoy communal areas, libraries, and gyms during their oceanic voyage.

3. The Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, Europe: A Waterway Connection

For those looking to explore the heart of Europe, the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal offers a unique waterway journey connecting the North Sea to the Black Sea. This extensive canal system passes through picturesque landscapes, historic cities, and charming villages, providing passengers with an unforgettable European adventure.

Costs: Canal boat cruises on the [Rhine-Main-Danube Canal](#) can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per person for a week-long journey, including meals and accommodation.

Accommodations: Accommodations on European canal boats are often cozy and well-appointed, offering panoramic views of the passing landscapes. Passengers can enjoy gourmet meals, onboard entertainment, and guided excursions to explore the cultural richness of the regions along the canal.

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Chapter 6: Luxury Travel for Less-Accommodations

TOP TIP

If you plan a stay of two weeks or more, rent an apartment.

Especially in Europe, apartments are available through traditional real estate brokers. Take a look at these sites:

[Daft \(Ireland\)](#) ,

[Rent \(20,000+ short- and long-term listings\)](#)

[Sublet](#)

[Idealista \(Spain and Portugal\)](#)

[Leboncoin \(France\)](#)

[Immobilienscout24](#)

[A Place in the Sun](#)

House-sitting. Many homeowners seek trustworthy individuals to care for their homes and pets while away. You can enjoy comfortable accommodation for free or at a significantly reduced cost by house-sitting. Websites like [Trusted House Sitters](#) and [House Carers](#), [MindMyHouse.com](#), are great resources for finding these opportunities. You can even exchange your home with [HomeExchange.com](#).

For digital nomads, co-living and co-working spaces have become increasingly popular. These spaces provide a community of like-minded individuals, comfortable accommodation, and dedicated workspaces, often at a fraction of the cost of traditional accommodation. Platforms like [NomadX](#) and [Roam](#) offer a wide range of options in various destinations worldwide.

For traditional hotels, you save a bundle booking them:

Off-Season and Holiday Ghost Towns: Opt for off-season travel for reduced prices and fewer crowds. Some fancy places empty out before or after the holidays, like Christmas and New Year's...check out the Hamptons in Long Island, New York, two weeks before Christmas... a lovely group of upscale towns, high-level accommodations, discount shopping, and great restaurants. I met Billy Joel at a bar one December night, but that's another story.

Disaster Towns: Consider visiting destinations just after a disaster for unique and memorable experiences. I had the best time in St Martin right after their hurricane disaster. The tennis court was still in disrepair, so the hotel gave me a free taxi and driver for five days. I had a great time, enjoyed the luxury, and supported tourism recovery in the area.

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Distressed luxury accommodations can be hidden gems, too. These are properties that have experienced financial difficulties or are undergoing renovations.

Noteworthy Under-the-Radar Places: Discover Luxury Travel for Less in UNDER-explored destinations like Galatia, Spain, Andorra, Cambodia, and Vanuatu.

Book through popular sites like Booking.com, Hotels.com, and Priceline. Additionally, consider subscribing to newsletters for the latest luxury hotel openings, as booking during this period often yields excellent prices. [Hotel industry magazine](#).

Take advantage of these opportunities and be among the first to experience the luxury and sophistication of these newly established establishments. Not only will you enjoy top-notch amenities, but you might also receive additional perks and personalized services at a fraction of the regular price.

Surprising Choices (Hostels, Guesthouses, etc.)

Traditionally known as budget accommodations for backpackers and young travelers, hostels have evolved to cater to a broader audience. These communal spaces provide a unique opportunity to meet fellow travelers worldwide, share stories, and forge lasting friendships. Many hostels now offer private rooms with en-suite bathrooms, ensuring privacy and comfort for those who prefer a more personal experience. Don't let the stereotypes deter you – hostels can be an excellent option for people of all ages, including those over 55 who want to travel extensively on a budget.

Guesthouses are another hidden gem that can provide comfortable accommodations without breaking the bank. These [family-run establishments](#) offer a homey atmosphere, personalized service, and a chance to immerse yourself in the local culture. Guesthouses are often located in residential areas, giving you a taste of authentic daily life. From quaint countryside cottages to cozy city dwellings, guesthouses can provide a unique and affordable luxury travel experience for those seeking a more intimate setting.

Dog Sitting - One of my globetrotting friends, a travel writer, has stayed in mansions, castles, and rural mansions because she dog-sits. It makes her money and gets her into some of the most coveted



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Home-Sharing Platforms -

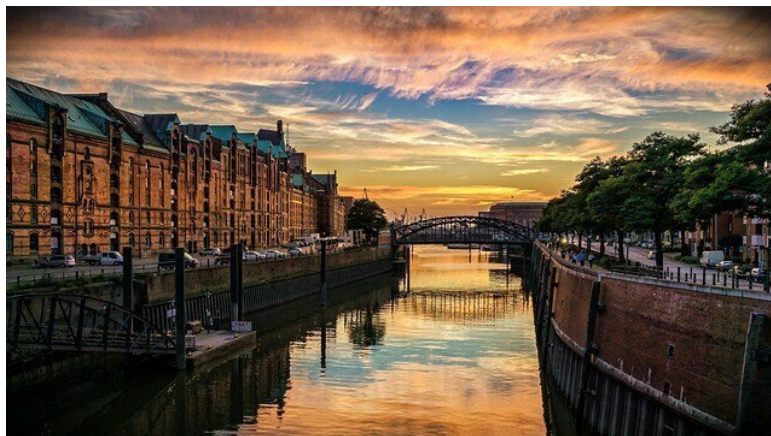
When using [Airbnb](#) or [Vrbo](#), it is crucial to carefully review the host's profile, ratings, and reviews. Previous guests' feedback can provide valuable insights into the host's reliability, cleanliness standards, and responsiveness. Communication with the host before booking is also advisable to clarify any doubts or specific requirements.

Interestingly, in 2015, I attended the Washington Conference on Aging, held every ten years and presided over by the President of the United States. That year, it was President Obama who invited Airbnb to attend. His notion was that the sharing economy was our generation's best economic development contribution. Home shares, now a significant business, are available in every corner of the globe.

But let's go one better with [Freebird](#), an Irish organization that offers home sharing and the homeowner as your guide to local adventures. The concept is perfect for the mature traveler as peers help you decide what to see, how to see it, and when. A personal guide, concierge, and friend all in one. Great for the solo traveler. That's a luxury.

Glamping and Alternative Luxury Accommodation Options: Glamping is a unique blend of glamour and camping and offers the perfect solution for those who want to experience the great outdoors without sacrificing comfort. Imagine spending your nights in a cozy, well-furnished tent with a comfortable bed, plush linens, and all the amenities you would expect from a luxury hotel. Many glamping sites also provide private bathrooms, electricity, and even Wi-Fi, ensuring that you can stay connected while enjoying the beauty of nature.

My husband glamped in India on [a tiger photo safari](#) and said it was the most luxurious experience of his life. I was fascinated by glamping with Beddoes in [Jordan's Wadi Rum](#), a remarkable culinary and cultural experience for \$20 a night (you read that right.) We can glamp near my home in the Joshua Tree area in [airstream vehicles](#).



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Chapter 7: Dining and Food Strategies

TOP TIPS:

Consult hotel concierges for the best restaurants, sightseeing, and entertainment deals. Even if you're not staying at a luxury hotel, check online resources like [Les Clefs d'Or](#) for travel hints and tips rarely found elsewhere.

Spend time investigating the local food scene.

Look for famous street food markets, local eateries, and hidden gems recommended by locals or [travel bloggers](#). These hidden culinary treasures often offer authentic dishes at affordable prices.

Dine during off-peak hours.

Many restaurants offer lunch specials, early bird discounts, and Happy Hour Deals, offering the same delectable dishes at a fraction of the price. Additionally, consider exploring the local markets and grocery stores.

Strike up conversations with restaurant owners, street food vendors, or fellow travelers .

They can provide insider tips, recommend hidden gems, and even offer guidance on ordering from foreign-language menus.

Street Food and Local Markets:

Embrace the local culture by exploring street food and local markets. Not only will you experience authentic cuisine, but you'll also find that these options are often more budget-friendly than restaurants. Just ensure that the vendors maintain proper hygiene standards.

Pack a High-End Picnic:

When exploring nature or visiting parks, consider packing a picnic from exclusive stores like [Harrods](#), [Fortnum and Mason](#), the [LA Market](#), and more.

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BREAKFAST!

Have a full breakfast when you opt for a hotel that includes the meal. Breakfast is particularly spectacular in ASIA.

Food Tours and Cooking Lessons

Food tours provide a delightful opportunity to taste various local dishes while gaining insights into a destination's culinary traditions and history. On a [food tour](#), you can wander through bustling markets, sample street food delicacies, and visit hidden gems that tourists often overlook. Engaging with knowledgeable guides who share their passion for food will enable you to appreciate the nuances of regional flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques. You can choose from [walking](#), [bike](#), or even [specialized tours focusing on cuisines or neighborhoods](#).

Cooking lessons, on the other hand, allow you to roll up your sleeves and get hands-on experience in the kitchen. Learning from local chefs or home cooks, you will discover the secrets behind traditional recipes and gain valuable skills to recreate the flavors of your travel adventures back home. These lessons often occur in small groups, ensuring an intimate and interactive learning environment. From making pasta in Italy to mastering the art of Thai curries, you will satisfy your appetite and gain a deeper understanding of the local culture through its cuisine. Check out [Epitourean](#).



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Chapter 8: Enhancing Your Travel Experience with Premium Products and Services

Discover a new dimension of luxury in travel that goes beyond opulent hotels and fine dining.

At [The Ageless Traveler](#), we believe that true luxury encompasses comfort, seamless travel experiences, and the preservation of health. This chapter introduces carefully curated products and services available through The Ageless Traveler, designed to make lifelong travel effortless and enjoyable for mature individuals.

Visit our website, <https://agelesstraveler.com/products-services/> to explore these offerings that prioritize your travel needs. While we may receive compensation for some products, rest assured that we have selected them for their uniqueness and value to you.

Take advantage of our convenient booking links and discounts every time you travel.

[Cruises It](#)

[Expedia](#)

[Booking.com](#)

[Hotels.com](#)

[Get Your Guide](#)

#1. Effortless Luggage Logistics with Luggage Free



Say goodbye to the hassle of lugging your luggage through airports. Luggage Free, our preferred door-to-door shipping service, ensures a stress-free travel experience with a commitment to on-time delivery. Easily initiate the process by clicking "Ship Now" on our website. Receive step-by-step instructions, including real-time tracking, once your order is confirmed. Enjoy the convenience of having your luggage delivered to any destination worldwide, saving you time and sparing you the inconvenience of baggage handling.

Luggage Free provides a dedicated focus on efficient luggage delivery, promising a seamless experience from your first call to final delivery. With on-time guarantees, insurance coverage up to \$1,000, and worldwide door-to-door delivery, travel with confidence knowing your possessions will be waiting for you.

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#2. Travel Facilitation for People With Dementia and Diverse Needs



For travelers with visible or invisible disabilities, our Ageless Travel Advisory Board member, Dr. Carol Sargent, offers a unique Freedom to Choose Package. Receive personalized recommendations for the right holiday, optimal travel choices, and any necessary support to empower you to travel with freedom and confidence.

Here's true planning luxury: If you want somebody to manage the entire holiday process, discover the other comprehensive services Carol and her colleagues offer and take advantage of a complimentary 30-minute session through [The Sargent Consulting](https://www.sargentconsulting.com) website.

#3. Tripped



Pack smarter, travel stress-free, and make the most of every trip.

TRAVEL SMARTER. Where will your cubes take you? These are a soft material packing system that triple the capacity of your luggage and prevent wrinkling.

https://trippedtravelgear.com/?sca_ref=8461146.pkt7T2tsx3oUnS

#4. Travel Pain-Free with Intelligent Threads



Intelligent Threads introduces Tension Release Technology™ (TRT) – a revolutionary approach to stabilizing potential energy within textiles. This technology interacts and communicates with your body's anatomy and physiology of the body, specifically the muscular system, to release tension and improve overall body structure alignment. Once introduced to the body, this energy field communicates with the muscles to release and relax, thus allowing for improved alignment of the overall body structure.

Through our highly specialized proprietary process, TRT can bond to any textile on the molecular level, achieving long-term viability to help support body function in muscular tension release and help improve overall body structure alignment.

Benefit from TRT integrated clothing and wearables, offering a unique blend of style and functionality for pain-free travel. <https://www.intelligentthreads.com/?afmc=3m>

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#5. REI Shop



If you like my hat, get one for yourself.

Delivering carefree Western fun and effortless style, the packable Sunday Afternoon Sunset Hat shades you with UPF 50+ ultraviolet protection.

https://www.rei.com/product/185815/sunday-afternoons-sunset-hat-womens?sku=1858150001&cm_mmc=aff_AL--238561--298453--NA&avad=298453_c40ef4e41



Bonus for my Readers. DON'T LOSE YOUR POWERFUL VOICE. Be heard, whether by doctors, family, or employers, employees, and volunteer staff. Discover the secret recipe for powerful communication in this remarkable online, on-demand course.

Use coupon code *agelesstraveler* for a 50% discount and pay only \$47. Speak Out is the perfect course if you are a volunteer, advocate, own a business, or want to speak with impact anywhere, to anyone at any time. Move, Touch, and Inspire listeners – 50% discount with coupon *agelesstraveler*.

For More Information, visit <https://bizauthorityu.thinkific.com/courses/Speak-Out-Communication>

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Luxury Travel for Less Activities and Sightseeing

TOP TIPS:

HOP ON HOP OFF BUS- I love them. I take them to every city where available, and so do my globetrotting friends. We get discounts when you travel From one city to any other city. Keep the coupon.

Parks and Community Events

Nature lovers can find solace in national parks and scenic landscapes, often offering free or low-cost activities. Hiking trails, birdwatching, and picnicking are outdoor activities that won't strain your wallet. Furthermore, these natural wonders provide an opportunity to unwind and connect with the world's beauty.

Attend free and low-cost cultural events. Capture the local vibe. I enjoyed Gilbert & Sullivan in the park in Murray, Utah, the circus in Giza, Egypt, and outdoor movies in Madrid, Spain and Palm Springs, California.

Combo deals and city passes

Senior discounts: ALWAYS ASK. If you're over 55, take advantage of the senior discounts many attractions and museums offer. Always carry your ID to prove your age and eligibility for these discounts.

Local deals and off-peak times: Keep an eye out for local deals and promotions, as attractions and museums often offer discounted rates to attract visitors during quieter periods. Visiting during off-peak times can also help you save money while avoiding crowds.

Membership benefits: Check out your clubs, AARP, and other membership organizations for discounts. Members of our free [Facebook Salon](#) get significant discounts.

Exploring Off-the-Beaten-Path Destinations for Unique Experiences

Some favorites: Consider destinations like [Luang Prabang in Laos](#), a charming city between mountains and the Mekong River. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers a serene escape with its ancient temples, traditional markets, and stunning natural landscapes. The cost of accommodation, food, and activities in Luang Prabang is considerably lower than popular tourist destinations, making it an ideal choice for budget-conscious travelers.

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For those seeking adventure, the [Azores in Portugal](#) is a paradise waiting to be explored. These volcanic islands boast breathtaking landscapes, from lush green valleys to dramatic cliffs and picturesque lakes.

If you prefer a mix of history and culture, head to Eastern Europe and discover the hidden treasures of [Krakow, Poland](#). This vibrant city has stunning architecture, a rich history, and a vibrant arts scene. Krakow offers many affordable and enriching experiences.

Travel with The Ageless Traveler.

Visit our [Featured Travel](#) page on our website for our latest trips.



Luxury Travel for Less

Chapter 10: Bon Voyage

One of the key takeaways from this book is that affordable luxury travel is possible at any age .

By implementing the strategies shared throughout these pages, you can make the most of your travel budget and stretch your dollar further. There are countless ways to travel for less, from finding the best deals on flights and accommodations to exploring off-the-beaten-path destinations.

Sometimes, the most memorable experiences come from immersing yourself in the local culture, trying street food, or staying in budget-friendly guesthouses. Embrace the adventure and embrace the local lifestyle.

Additionally, always be open to new experiences and embrace the unknown. Traveling is not just about seeing new places; it's about personal growth and self-discovery. Step outside your comfort zone, interact with locals, and learn from their stories and perspectives. These encounters will enrich your travel experience and leave you with lasting memories.

Lastly, surround yourself with like-minded individuals who share your love for travel. Connect with fellow travelers through online communities, attend travel meetups, or join local travel clubs. Not only will you find inspiration and valuable travel advice, but you may also make lifelong friends who share your passion for exploring the world.

How We Support You

We provide practical tips and opportunities to overcome barriers to travel. Our commitment to supporting your travel endeavors begins with our carefully curated content. Our podcasts, blogs, YouTube videos, and eBooks are specifically designed to address mature travelers' unique needs and interests. As we grow older, our priorities may shift, and our travel preferences may change. We provide valuable insights on how to make the most of your travel experiences.

We believe that travel should be a community experience. That's why we offer a vibrant online community for like-minded individuals to connect and share their travel experiences. Our [Facebook Salon](#) allows you to connect with fellow travelers, exchange tips and advice, and find travel buddies for your next adventure. We understand that traveling alone can be daunting. Our community is here to provide support, encouragement, and companionship throughout your journey.

The Ageless Traveler is the voice of age-friendly travel to the travel industry.

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We offer practical advice to hotels, airports, travel venues, tourist boards and ministries of tourism on challenges during travel you may face, such as mobility issues and health concerns. We share tips on designing age-friendly accommodations, accessible attractions, and transportation options, enabling you to explore the world comfortably and confidently. If you are in any aspect of tourism, join our unique World Tourism Network Group. Also, contact us if you are interested in our [consulting services](#) or [The Ageless Traveler Certification Program](#).

With The Ageless Traveler, you can rest assured that you are receiving reliable and up-to-date information from experienced travelers who have been there and done that.

Our passion for travel shines through in each video, audio, and article, inspiring you to explore new horizons and make unforgettable memories.

Contact Us: We look forward to supporting you in your incredible journey!

By voicemail: www.FanList.com/agelesstraveler

By email: adrianegberg.agelesstraveler@gmail.com

Through our website: www.agelesstraveler/contact

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Listen to The Ageless Traveler Podcast: www.agelesstraveler/podcasts

Join Our [Facebook Salon](#)



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Where do I Want to Travel?

When do I Want to Travel?

What is My Perfect Trip Story?

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Luxury Travel For Less 3-Step Plan

Step 1: I will select the dates of my next trip by _____

I will select and contact my travel companion(s) by _____

Step 2: I will select and book my transportation, cruises, or more significant expenditures by _____

Step 3: I will put meat on the bones by determining and booking the more minor details of my trip by

Just Do It. Bon Voyage.

